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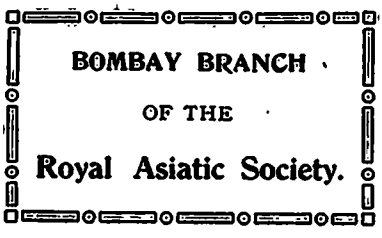

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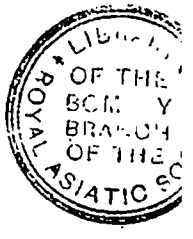

Report on the Administration of Bengal 1930-31

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1932

Published by the Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

Agents in India.

Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Printers and Booksellers, College Street, Calcutta.

Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

Customers in the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe may obtain publications either direct from the High Commissioner's office or through any book-seller.

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INTRODUCTION.

The Report is, as usual, divided into two parts. Part I deals chiefly with political events and the work of the Legislative Council during the calendar year 1931. In Part II a detailed account is given of the various branches of administration based on departmental reports. Where necessary, references have been given to the more comprehensive Administration Report of 1921-22 for supplementary information. The Report is published under authority and with the general approval of the Government of Bengal, but it must not be assumed that this approval extends to every particular expression of opinion.

Bengal Administration Report, 1930-31.

Part I

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Political Review.

Position at beginning of year.

On the 1st January 1931, civil disobedience had been in operation some ten months. The Unlawful Association Ordinance was in force, but had not been applied to any area in Bengal. The Indian Press Ordinance had been re-enacted a day or two before the end of 1930. The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930 (Bengal Act VI of 1930), empowered the executive to arrest and detain members of terrorist organisations. Civil disobedience, however, had been steadily weakening during the latter months of the year 1930, so much so that, at the opening of 1931, it might justly have been concluded that the movement was in train to be stamped out. There was reason to believe that Congress funds were running low. The public again were increasingly resentful of interference by Congress with their ordinary life, and the great majority were longing for peace. At the same time it could not be denied that the disaffection of a large part of the Hindu middle class stood undiminished. The situation showed little change in the early part of January. The civil disobedience movement was strong in the Midnapore district and the Unlawful Association Ordinance had to be extended to that district on the 9th January. Picketing on a serious scale was carried on in Calcutta. Occasional picketing was reported from the majority of the districts. The no-tax campaign in the Arambagh subdivision of the Hooghly district still delayed the complete collection of Union rates. There was slight activity in boycott of Union Boards in five districts. Salt manufacture demonstrations were held at one or two places within the districts of Howrah and Midnapore, where, however, they provoked but little public interest. In four districts seditious and provocative speeches were delivered; in twelve processions were

held. During the first fortnight of January 147 persons were convicted in connection with the civil disobedience movement. Of these, however, Midnapore claimed 63 and Hooghly 41.

The Prime Minister's offer.

2. Such, in brief, was the provincial situation in regard to civil disobedience when at the final Plenary Session of the Round Table Conference held on the 19th January, the Prime Minister in his speech to the delegates referred to an appeal for an amnesty which had been made by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and said that, if the appeal was responded to in India and civil quiet assured, His Majesty's Government would not be backward in their own response. He also stated the views of his Majesty's Government upon the future constitution of India. These were in brief that, with a legislature constituted on a federal basis, the executive should be responsible to the legislatures, central and provincial, with certain reservations or safeguards. The notifications declaring the All-India Congress Working Committee an unlawful association were thereupon withdrawn by Governments in India, and Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders were released from confinement.

Reception of the offer.

3. The Prime Minister's statement failed to satisfy the Press in Bengal. The vernacular newspapers demanded amnesty without any reservation. Of the English newspapers none but the "Bengalee" and the "Statesman" welcomed the statement or conceded its generosity. The remainder treated it with suspicion, and endeavoured to detract from its value by magnifying the scope of the proposed safeguards. As regards the general public, certainly in some quarters the announcement impressed the politically minded, but Congress proclaimed that the offer was not genuine and in any case extorted by Congress pressure. The attitude of Congress was plainly reflected in the "Independence Day" celebrations, which were held in every district on the 26th January and consisted of processions, illuminations and flying of the national flag. In three districts these celebrations led to violence. In Calcutta Mr. Subhas Bose placed himself at the head of a procession in defiance of a prohibitory notice issued by the Commissioner of Police, and was arrested, convicted of rioting and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for six months.

Delhi conversations.

4. Mr. Gandhi was soon afterwards summoned to Delhi by Lord Irwin. During February the conversations between the Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi on the political situation continued. During the first half of that month a good deal of disorder was stirred up in various places by Congress workers and there was much illegal activity. The second half of the month was comparatively quiet, but towards the end of it the Unlawful Instigation Ordinance and the Unlawful Association Ordinance were extended

to certain areas in the province in order to counteract no-tax agitation. On the night of the 26th-27th February the census was taken without untoward incident.

The Delhi Settlement.

5. On the 5th March the Delhi Settlement was entered into between Lord Irwin and Mr. Gandhi. The chief provisions of the settlement were that civil disobedience was to be discontinued, as well as the boycott of British commodities as a political weapon, Government on their part engaging to withdraw ordinances connected with the civil disobedience movement and notifications declaring associations unlawful, if made in connection with civil disobedience, to release prisoners sentenced in connection with that movement for offences which did not involve violence or incitement to violence, to withdraw pending prosecutions of a similar kind, and to permit people of villages adjacent to salt-producing areas to collect or make salt for domestic consumption or sale within such villages only. The primary object of Lord Irwin in making the settlement was to give to Congress the opportunity of participating in the Round Table Conference. In terms of the settlement the ordinances in force were repealed on the 6th March by the Government of India. It was also decided to drop the Indian Press Bill. The Local Government promptly carried out its portion of the compact. In particular it may be mentioned that additional police wherever posted were withdrawn.

Immediate effect of the Delhi Settlement.

6. On the publication of the Delhi settlement the no-tax campaign was abandoned by Congress and there followed a slackening of unlawful activity together with an improvement in the general situation, except in those districts in which civil disobedience stood strongest rooted, in particular Midnapore and Bakarganj. In some other districts also the release of prisoners in terms of the settlement evoked a temporary outburst of civil disobedience in its usual forms. The decision at the Karachi Session of Congress to ratify the settlement was generally welcomed by the public, who were tired of strife. The Indian press, however, stressed the temporary nature of the truce.

Murder of Mr. Peddie.

7. Towards the end of March the executions of Bhagat Singh and his fellows, condemned in Lahore for political murder, occasioned a number of processions, hartals and meetings at which speeches eulogising their deeds were delivered, revolutionary cries were shouted, and violence, bloodshed and revolution were advocated. These various activities were organised by Congress workers. The Corporation of Calcutta, a body dominated by Congress, adjourned its meeting of the 25th March as a mark of protest against the executions. The Congress press, now free of control, was filled with tributes to the "heroes and martyrs of Lahore." Some of the newspapers confined their praise to the

spirit actuating the deed. Others made no such limitation. It is a conclusion of experience that such activities usually lead to outrage and the present occasion proved no exception to the rule. On the 7th April, Mr. J. Peddie, C.I.E., I.C.S., the District Magistrate of Midnapore, was shot and mortally wounded. Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta issued a statement to the Press condemning the murder, and the crime was also on the whole deplored by the Congress newspapers. But "Liberty," the organ of Mr. Subhas Bose, while drawing attention to the deprecation by Mr. Gandhi of the example of Bhagat Singh, at the same time paid "all the tributes that could be paid" to his memory.

Exploitation of the Delhi Settlement by Congress.

8. It now also became clear that Congress regarded the settlement as an opportunity to refit its forces, consolidate its position and undermine the position of Government, and had been from the date of the settlement working steadily and persistently with those objects in view. Inflammatory and seditious speeches increased in number and violence. The Congress press was full of complaints against Government of violation of the terms of settlement. This course was consciously pursued with the object of securing ground for the renewal of the struggle. The same press clamoured loudly for the reprieve of Dinesh Gupta and of Ram Krishna Biswas condemned to death, the former for the outrage with murder in Writers' Buildings, the latter for the murder by shooting of an Inspector of Police at Chandpur. In May the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division reported that, throughout his division, though the agitation for non-payment of revenue, rent and Union Board taxes had been abandoned by Congress in deference to the settlement, picketing and boycott still persisted, consumers and vendors of excisable articles and foreign goods generally were interfered with by methods the reverse of peaceful, meetings were held all over the division at which the hearers were exhorted to boycott foreign goods, to hoist the national flag and to prepare earnestly for the coming struggle by collecting funds and joining Congress organisations, loyalists were threatened, complainants and witnesses were intimidated and terrorised and Government servants were subjected to insult and to social boycott. In other divisions the signs, if less widespread, were identical. These activities were most serious in the district of Midnapore, where social boycott was powerfully imposed on such as assisted Government, village organisation was strenuously taken in hand and Congress workers endeavoured to create among the masses the impression that government had been surrendered into the hands of Congress.

"Arbitration Courts."

9. An interesting feature of post-settlement Congress activity in Midnapore was an effort to establish an alternative system for the administration of justice. So-called "arbitration courts"

made their appearance soon after the publication of the Delhi Settlement. Some forty courts functioned in all and tried a good many petty cases. They were for the most part found within the Tamluk subdivision, where the scheme in view was to form a court in each village and an appeal court in Tamluk town. Fees were exacted in each case tried and part of any fine imposed was taken into Congress funds. The public were intimidated into submitting to the jurisdiction of these illegal tribunals. Two or three cattle pounds were also established and a Congress police-station organisation sketched out for the whole Tamluk subdivision. In certain parts of the subdivision, moreover, the local "militia" of Congress volunteers, besides drilling and practising *lathi* and sword play, at this time regularly patrolled the villages. It is thus seen that, in fact, a beginning was made with a scheme for an alternative government and administration of the district. Efforts were also made to set up "arbitration courts" in the Bankura, 24-Parganas and Hooghly districts. From July onwards the activity of these bodies was of little account. This result may be attributed to the action taken to suppress them by the district authorities, the unpopularity and disrepute of the tribunals themselves owing to corruption and oppression, their inherent lack of sanction and the opposition of the legal profession.

Subsequent lull in civil disobedience.

10. In the latter half of May, however, civil disobedience diminished and the improvement persisted for the rest of the year. The energies of Congress workers were largely diverted to the quarrel between Mr. Sen Gupta and Mr. Subhas Bose, which came to a head in May during the preparation for the elections to the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee and was not composed till September, when Mr. Bose resigned, both from the Provincial Congress Committee and from the Corporation of Calcutta, and an arrangement for the representation of both parties on the All-India Working Committee was arrived at. Floods in North and East Bengal, beginning in the month of July, also occupied the attention of Congress, which as on the occasion of previous floods, grasped the opportunity to ingratiate itself with the public of the stricken area and, at the same time, to misrepresent the attitude and efforts of Government. Picketing remained fairly general and continuous till the end of the year, economic boycott of British goods being substituted for political boycott; but otherwise there was a lull in civil disobedience. Public attention was turned on Mr. Gandhi at the Round Table Conference. The mass of people were, moreover, tired of agitation and wished for peace.

Murder of Mr. Garlick.

11. On the 7th July Dinesh Gupta was executed. The Calcutta Corporation by resolution adjourned its meeting of the 8th July after the Mayor had exhorted his hearers to "pay our respect to

the courage and devotion shown by the young man in the pursuit of his ideal." Hartals were attempted in Calcutta and in certain districts. The accustomed adulation of the murderer was to be read in the Congress press, which likewise denounced the execution as inhuman, vindictive and in faithless violation of the Delhi Settlement. As pointed out before, the canonisation of Bhagat Singh in the press and by the Corporation of Calcutta preceded the murder of Mr. Peddie. On the 27th July Mr. R. R. Garlick, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge of the 24-Parganas, while sitting in his Court at Alipore, was shot dead. He had presided over the special tribunal which sentenced Dinesh Gupta to death. The murderer was shot down and took poison.

12. The crime aroused great indignation among Europeans. On the 29th July a public meeting was held in Calcutta to record indignation and to call for action by Government. The meeting was packed with Europeans and some Indians also attended. Manifestations of Hindu feeling were mixed. To the older men the murder of a Sessions Judge sitting on the bench came as a shock. But the references thereto in the Hindu newspapers were far from being satisfactory. "Liberty," for instance, uttered merely a formal and perfunctory warning against violence. Other newspapers, condemning the crime half-heartedly, commended the spirit of the criminal and threw the blame on Government for repression. The attitude of a part of the Hindu youth was revealed in the hartal observed by the students of the Jadabpur Engineering College in mourning for the death of Mr. Garlick's assassin, in the course of which they rushed into the upper class compartments of certain railway trains on the Eastern Bengal Railway, insulted and interfered with passengers and made themselves otherwise objectionable. The Calcutta Corporation passed a resolution moved by a European councillor condemning the murder. In the course of the discussion the Mayor maintained that the above-mentioned Dinesh Gupta resolution had not been intended to extol the man, but to express nothing more than the Corporation's sense of grief. On the 19th August, after one postponement of discussion, the Corporation, by a majority of 39 to 24, refused the motion of a European councillor to rescind that resolution, but passed an amendment to the effect that the resolution had not been intended to extol murder, that the report in the "Calcutta Municipal Gazette" was inaccurate, and that the Corporation reiterated its condemnation of violence. The Mayor withdrew his speech of the 8th July, though it stood confirmed in the minutes.

Extra police to suppress terrorism.

13. To meet the cost of extra police required to cope with the menace of this outbreak of terrorism, the Local Government passed through the Legislative Council a supplementary demand for

Rs. 5,15,000 under the head "Police." This grant was voted by the Council on the 3rd August.

Mr. Gandhi at the Round Table Conference.

14. In August Mr. Gandhi made public an intention to abstain from attendance at the Round Table Conference, if certain alleged non-observances by local Governments of the Delhi Settlement were left unremedied. Conversations on the subject went on for some time between the Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi. Reference of the points at issue to a third party tribunal was demanded by Congress and it plainly emerged as a result of the discussion that Congress was, by virtue of the Delhi Settlement, arrogating to itself the right to interpose and negotiate on behalf of the people of India on terms of equality with the Government of India itself. Eventually Mr. Gandhi withdrew his ultimatum and sailed for England. At his departure the general feeling prevailed that little good could come out of the Round Table Conference, and that resistance to authority in some form or other would be organised so soon as that Conference had terminated.

Attempt to murder Mr. Cassells.

15. On the 21st August Mr. A. Cassells, C.I.E., I.C.S., Commissioner of the Dacca Division, was shot at and wounded at Tangail in Mymensingh. In the Press the outrage was generally condemned.

Murder of Inspector Ahsanullah.

16. On the 30th of the same month Inspector Ahsanullah of the Bengal Police, who had been active in the prosecution of the Armoury Raid Case, was murdered in Chittagong town. This murder of an officer who, having served in the district for many years, was well known and respected, aroused among the local Muhammadan community deep indignation and resentment. Communal feeling on the instant flared up and looting of Hindu shops by Muhammadans broke out in the town. Wild and exaggerated accounts of the looting were published in certain newspapers. Congress appointed a committee headed by Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta to make enquiry. Responsible Muhammadans, however, refused to give evidence before it. This committee published a report which slandered the "local magistracy" and the police by a charge of deliberate instigation and encouragement of looting. The result of the official enquiry ordered by the Local Government had not been made public when the year closed.

Detenus in the Hijli Detention Camp are fired on by guards.

17. In September the guard of the Hijli Detention Camp for detenus fired upon the detenus and killed two of their number. This camp had been opened early in March to relieve congestion caused by the accommodation of detenus in the jails. It was the second such camp of detention to be formed, the earlier camp being

located at Buxa. The Local Government appointed a committee, consisting of a High Court Judge and a Divisional Commissioner, to enquire and report on the occurrence. The following is the substance of the conclusions reached by the Committee. Previous to the occurrence there had been misbehaviour of various kinds by the detenus. The day before the firing took place, a number of them had tried to force their way past the inner gate of the camp and had assaulted the sentry who stopped them. These incidents, in which the detenus were the aggressors, aroused the resentment and anger of the sepoys forming the guard. On the evening of the 16th September a sentry was interfered with by certain detenus. The alarm was given, the guard entered the camp, and, after being joined by the alarm party, charged and drove the detenus into a corner. Some shots were then fired by the sentries, followed by a half-hearted retaliation by certain of the detenus, whereat the sepoys without any justification fired a fusillade at the main building, killing two detenus and injuring several others, one of whom had to suffer the amputation of an arm.

Attempts to murder Mr. Durno and Mr. Villiers.

18. On the 28th October in Dacca town Mr. L. G. Durno, I.C.S., District Magistrate of Dacca, was shot at and wounded in the eye. On the 29th October in Calcutta an attempt was made to shoot Mr. E. Villiers, President of the European Association.

Further measures against terrorism.

19. These outrages roused the utmost excitement among Europeans in Calcutta, who blamed Government for not having taken earlier action to prevent incitement to violence by Congress and the press. The Indian Press Emergency Powers Act, 1931, however, had already become law on the 9th October, and now Government tightened up the law against terrorism. On the 29th October the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930 (Bengal Act VI of 1930), was amended by Ordinance IX of 1931, promulgated by the Governor-General. This new Ordinance made it possible to take preventive action not only against members of terrorist associations as such, instead of having to wait for evidence of their activities in certain specified directions before action was possible, but also against persons who though not members themselves did any act to assist the operations of any such association. It also included within the schedule of offences liable to be dealt with under the Ordinance the sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to waging war against the King and the offence of harbouring absconders. The object of the former provision was to make possible the arrest of those members of revolutionary associations, often the leaders and organisers, who stand in the background and avoid active participation in violent acts. A subsequent Ordinance to suppress terrorism, which owed its

origin mainly to events in Chittagong, will be described in the next paragraph.

Chittagong and the Bengal Emergency Powers Ordinance, 1931.

20. It is convenient to record separately the events in Chittagong during the year. In the month of April the situation there stood as follows:—The Armoury Raid had taken place twelve months previously, since when a considerable body of armed police and Eastern Frontier Rifles had been stationed in the town. The trial, by a Special Tribunal constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925, of those accused of complicity in that raid, had commenced in June of the previous year and was still proceeding. It may be mentioned that the termination of these proceedings was not in near prospect even at the end of the year. It was known that there was a band of absconders in the district which was in possession of a considerable amount of arms and ammunition and was in communication with the under-trial prisoners in the raid case, and there was good reason to anticipate further attempts at outrage. Two companies of Gurkhas were requisitioned to aid the police forces, and these arrived in Chittagong on the 21st April. The Officer Commanding assumed responsibility for and charge of the safety of the town. Various precautionary orders were promulgated, including an order for curfew. Those of the under-trial prisoners in the raid trial who were at liberty on bail were arrested and committed to confinement under the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Systematic searches were carried out, which resulted in the revelation of well-laid preparations by the absconders to secure the breaking-out of the under-trials from jail, as well as plans for attacks on officials. Within the jail itself and in one of the enclosures housing the under-trials, a number of weapons, including a revolver, were discovered buried under the floor and also ammunition, gun powder and electrical wires. The Gurkhas were replaced in May by 200 Assam Rifles borrowed from the Assam Government. The police force in the interior was strengthened by the quartering of 120 additional police in a number of villages. Early in June a discovery was made of explosives planted in various places within Chittagong town. In all eleven canisters of gun-powder were unearthed, ten of which weighed some 10 lbs. each and one canister 20 lbs. Several were buried underneath a road adjacent to the Collector's kutcherry. Later in June there was a fresh find of explosives and of materials for making bombs and in August a further capture of bombs. The general apprehension caused by these incidents and by the disturbances which followed the murder of Inspector Ahsanullah showed the need of stronger action to restore peace and order in the district, and it was decided to take special powers for the suppression of terrorism, and to strengthen the forces of Government by sending a military force to Chittagong. The Bengal Emergency Powers

Ordinance, 1931, was promulgated by the Governor-General on the 30th November and at the same time a military force was sent to Chittagong. It was made up of the 1/5th Maharatta Light Infantry and two companies of the 2/8th Gurkha Rifles, with detachments from the Signal and Survey Sections. This force together with an increased force of armed police occupied various localities in the district and was still there at the close of the year. Although it did not succeed in finding the absconders, it had a great effect in restoring confidence and more normal conditions.

Berhampore Conference.

21. At the Bengal Provincial Congress Conference held at Berhampore on the 5th and 6th December immediately after the conclusion of the Round Table Conference in London, a resolution was passed to the effect that the people of Bengal should be urged to prepare for the coming fight and that, in the meantime, effect be given without delay to a programme of intensive boycott of all British goods, boycott of all concerns controlled by Britishers and of Anglo-Indian newspapers, boycott of foreign cloth and prohibition of liquor and intoxicating drugs. The excuses put forward to justify such action by Congress were formulated in the resolution as "the indiscriminate arrest and detention of Congress workers and office bearers of Congress organisations in Bengal," the so-called unredressed wrongs of Chittagong, Hijli and Dacca, and the enactment of the Bengal Emergency Powers Ordinance, 1931, by which actions Government were alleged to have "practically ended the Gandhi-Irwin pact." The "Dacca wrongs" referred to were the arrests and searches which followed the attempt to murder Mr. Durno and the oppression alleged to have accompanied them. This resolution was the logical outcome of the attitude adopted by Congress ever since the Delhi Settlement was entered into. Mr. Subhas Bose had lately returned from a tour in which he had been preparing the people for a renewal of the war, and doubtless one of the purposes aimed at by the resolution was to confront Mr. Gandhi with an accomplished fact when he returned to India. Congress leaders had elsewhere made the cause of the detenus the cause of Congress, and the demand for the release of the detenus, interned for their complicity in the terrorist movement, betokened the interest in that movement of the Congress party in Bengal. The resolution was subsequently ratified and approved by the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, but remained unimplemented until the end of the year pending the fiat of the All-India Congress Working Committee.

Murder of Mr. Stevens.

22. The President of this same conference, a delegate from Tippera, uttered the following words:—"The heroic part the Indian ladies have played in the struggle for freedom has evoked praise from all quarters. I hope, when the struggle is revived, as

it must be, they will come forward with renewed enthusiasm and redoubled vigour." Mr. Subhas Bose also made a special appeal to women to hold themselves in readiness "to step into the breach." On the 14th December, little more than a week after the close of the conference, Mr. C. G. B. Stevens, I.C.S., District Magistrate of Tippera, was shot dead in his bungalow at Comilla by two girl students each aged about 16 who had obtained access to him on the pretext of submitting a petition for the arrangement of a swimming contest. Mr. Stevens was handing the petition back to them when one of the girls shot him point blank with a revolver. The other shot at those who intervened. The girls were both daughters of local residents.

The Indian Press and the Indian Press Emergency Powers Act, 1931.

23. The Indian Press Ordinance, which had been re-enacted by the Governor-General a day or two before the opening of the year, was, as has been explained above, repealed on the 6th March in terms of the Delhi Settlement, but the hope that the Press would respond by the exercise of restraint and moderation was soon disappointed. The Government of Bengal was compelled to sanction a large number of prosecutions for seditious articles and the promotion of class hatred. A marked feature in many papers in Bengal was the glorification of political assassins and the encouragement of the cult of terrorism. The danger of such propaganda both in Bengal and elsewhere was too great to be ignored and the Government of India were again compelled to legislate for the control of the Press. A bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly to provide against the publication of matter inciting to or encouraging murder or violence and the Indian Press Emergency Powers Act, 1931 (XXIII of 1931), was passed by the Legislature and became law on the 9th October.

Terrorism.

24. Ever since the year 1929 Congress leaders and the Congress newspapers had ceaselessly instilled hatred of Government into the minds of the youth of Bengal, and of late, though at times paying lip-service to non-violence, had held up to admiration those who commit murder for political ends. The cult of hatred and violence had been largely disseminated in schools and colleges by teachers who followed the Congress creed. More and more the left wing of Congress had identified itself with the party of terrorism, so that, in some districts at least, it had become difficult to discriminate between the two parties. Thus in the month of August bombs and materials for their manufacture were discovered in a Congress office in the Faridpur district. The clamour by Congress against the ordinances enacted to suppress terrorism indicated the same tendency. The "Youth Movement" was avowedly violent. The open espousal of the cause of the detenus has been commented on above, as also the incitement to

terrorism at meetings and by processions organised by members of Congress. Among the members of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee there were many detenus and ex-detenus. Of these again a number had at various times either been convicted under the Indian Penal Code or bound down under the Code of Criminal Procedure for offences connected with sedition or violence. The same was true of the District Congress Committees of Calcutta and of certain other districts. The revolutionary party, moreover, had in general used Congress as a stalking horse taking advantage of the civil disobedience movement for recruitment purposes. In addition to the activity of Congress by way of incitement to terrorism, civil disobedience engendered contempt of authority, encouraged lawlessness and absorbed the attention of the police. Finally, economic distress and widespread unemployment among the middle class had of late years driven those in want to crime. The result was a large and sinister crop of violent crime and acts of terrorism during the year under review. Especially notable was the number of outrages in which revolvers and explosives were employed. There is evidence of a widespread conspiracy to smuggle arms into Bengal. January saw several cases of arson or attempted arson on the property of Government or of loyalists. In Dacca town armed robbery was attempted on a clerk of the Bhawal Court of Wards' Estate shortly after he had cashed a large cheque. He was shot at and wounded. There were two attempts at armed robbery on the Eastern Bengal Railway. In the Bakarganj district four Hindus of the middle class were arrested with two revolvers and a number of cartridges in circumstances which pointed to an intention on their part to commit a dacoity. In February a violent explosion occurred in a room in a block of buildings in North Calcutta known to be a resort of revolutionaries. In April two passengers were murdered and a large sum of money stolen from a train on the Mymensingh-Bhairab-Bazar section of the Assam-Bengal Railway. At Sealdah Station in Calcutta four men robbed a khalassi. One of them stabbed the khalassi in the neck, while another fired a revolver at a watchman who interfered. In May four youths, one of whom made threat with a revolver, held up and raided a motor bus laden with money for distribution to sub-post offices. In June a live bomb was found deposited on a Calcutta post office counter; a merchant's clerk carrying money was stabbed and killed in a Bakarganj village and a bomb thrown into a Chandpur liquor shop killed two customers and injured three more. In August four men armed with revolvers in full daylight robbed Rs. 6,000 from municipal employees in front of the municipal office in Dacca. In the same town another such gang took from certain pandits the money rewards just received from

Government which they were engaged in dividing among themselves. In September two persons, one with a revolver, were arrested in the Hooghly district in circumstances which pointed to their intention to commit a train robbery. In October four youths armed with revolvers and daggers raided a shop in Calcutta and made off with some cash. This outrage was known as the Manicktala dacoity. In Dacca a postal peon was robbed of Rs. 24,000 by armed men, who were chased and captured after they had fired on their pursuers and wounded two constables. In a taxi dacoity in Calcutta the escaping raiders shot two members of the public, one of whom afterwards died of his wounds. In December a box containing 22 bombshells was found by some coolies clearing jungle at a place within the Dacca district. At the very end of the year, on the night of the 30th December, a principal witness in the Manicktala dacoity case was shot dead by an unknown assailant. In addition to the above on no less than eleven occasions mail peons, or civil court or school peons carrying sums of money, were robbed by armed men, on four other occasions similar robberies were attempted, while two armed robberies and one attempt at such were made on merchants or their servants carrying cash. In some of these robberies very large sums were lost. Revolvers were fired in some of them causing wounds in certain cases, while two of the victims were stabbed. There are also to be recorded four dacoities by armed men. On eight occasions bombs were thrown without effect, and one young boy was injured in making up bombs. The perpetrators of most of the above outrages were Hindu youths of the middle class, many of them boys of no more than sixteen years.

The Communal Situation.

25. The relations between the two great communities did not improve during the course of the year, though communal outbreaks were not numerous. Anxiety for the future naturally led to a certain amount of political restlessness among the Muhammadans, who are becoming more and more anxious that claims for an increased share in the administration of the province shall not be overlooked.

Legislative Council.

26. The new Council House was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 9th February. In the Council the groups of members remained unaltered from the previous year. Sessions were held comprising sittings on 35 days. Eight

Acts were passed, of which four owed their introduction to non-official members. The most important enactment was the Bengal State Aid to Industries Act, 1931 (Bengal Act V of 1931). That non-official members are increasingly active in introducing legislation, is shown by the fact that, at the expiry of the year, 13 non-official bills were pending, while 11 more projects for introduction had been received. Notices of 760 questions were sent in. A number of short notice questions and supplementary questions were also asked. Two hundred and sixteen resolutions on matters of general public interest were tabled for discussion. Of these 24 topics were actually discussed. The remainder lapsed. A special motion was carried acknowledging the wisdom, statesmanship and sympathy with Indian aspirations displayed by the Prime Minister in the scheme for the future Indian constitution outlined in his speech at the concluding plenary sitting of the Round Table Conference and urging co-operation upon the members of the House. The Council by a big majority voted a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,15,000 under the head "Police" to meet the cost of the extra police required to deal with the disturbed situation in the province, a striking instance of the Council's co-operation with Government in dealing with the difficult political situation.

Industrial Disputes.

27. Generally labour was quiet but a change of the system of working in some jute mills led to a series of strikes which with one exception quickly came to an end.

Economic Situation.

28. Depression prevailed throughout the year and low prices were the rule. Money was short and rent and revenue were collected with difficulty. The worldwide depression, coming after last year's record jute crop, had very seriously affected the province of which one half of the population, either directly or indirectly, depend for their livelihood upon the jute trade. Propaganda had been undertaken by Government to bring home to the jute-grower the error of over-production at a time of glutted markets. A large reduction in the area sown with jute during the year was the satisfactory result. A few cases of hât-looting in January indicated that the raiyat was in difficulties. To relieve the situation agricultural loans were given out in some districts, while, in the latter half of the year, a welcome rise in the price

of jute provided further relief. The monsoon was, moreover, favourable and resulted in good crops. Distress in certain parts of North and East Bengal was aggravated by flood. From about the 25th July an abnormally high flood in the Brahmaputra coming from Assam began to affect riparian areas along the river Jamuna in the districts of Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna and Mymensingh. A long but narrow strip of land in Mymensingh along the old course of the Brahmaputra was also flooded and likewise those portions of the Pabna, Faridpur and Dacca districts which border on the Padma. The flood reached its maximum level about the 30th July and then subsided gradually. Prompt measures of relief were adopted by Government as well as by private relief societies.

Part II

CHAPTER I.—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

For—

Physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples.
Historical summary.
Forms of administration.
Civil divisions of British territory.
Details of the last census.

See—

Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1921-22, Part II, pages 1—141.

Changes in Administration.

His Excellency Sir Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E., Governor of the Presidency of Fort William, returned from leave on the 21st September 1930 and resumed charge as Governor of Bengal from His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Governor of Bihar and Orissa.

2. The Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy was appointed a Minister for the administration of transferred subjects on the 15th November 1930, *vice* Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray resigned on the 14th August 1930.

3. The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi, KT., Member, Bengal Executive Council, was granted leave for nine weeks, which leave was subsequently extended by two weeks, with effect from the 13th April 1931, and Prince Afsar-ul-Mulk Mirza Muhammad Akram Hossain Bahadur was appointed to be a temporary Member of the Council. The Hon'ble Alhadj Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi, KT., returned from leave on the 29th June 1931 and resumed charge of his office.

4. The Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., Member of the Bengal Executive Council, having been deputed on special duty in London in connection with the Indian Round Table Conference, Mr. Bepin Behari Ghosh, retired Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, was appointed to be Member in his place temporarily with effect from the 15th August 1931.

CHAPTER II.—TRIBUTARY STATES.

Cooch Behar.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1930-31.]

General.

5. Area, 1,318 square miles, population 5,90,866 against 5,92,489 in 1921, showing a decrease of 1,623; chief products—rice, jute, tobacco and mustard seed; military force, 298 men; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur.

Political Agent.

6. During the year under review Mr. R. N. Reid, C.I.E., I.C.S., Political Agent, made over charge of the agency to Mr. J. G. Drummond, I.C.S., on the 24th September 1930.

Financial.

7. The actual revenue and expenditure of the state amounted to Rs. 29,31,763 and Rs. 34,27,403 against Rs. 41,05,037 and Rs. 39,17,412 respectively in the previous year, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 4,95,640. The fall in revenue was due to the world-wide depression which caused a fall in the prices of agricultural produce. The severe earthquake in July 1930 necessitated a good deal of expenditure.

State railway.

8. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway amounted to Rs. 3,76,828 and the net earnings to Rs. 2,02,418, showing a decrease as compared with last year's figures. The percentage of working expenses over gross earnings was 46·28 against 46·01 in the preceding year.

Crops and condition of the people.

9. The total rainfall during the year was 86·71 inches against 121·63 inches of the previous year. The price of common rice ranged between Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 5 per maund during the year. The area under jute cultivation was 31,000 acres against 30,100 acres in the previous year. The outturn of the crop was estimated to be 12 annas. Owing to the low market the cultivators derived little profit from this crop. The outturns of tobacco and mustard seed were not up to the mark. The market price of tobacco was usually low. The cultivators were therefore disappointed in two main crops, jute and tobacco.

Crime.

10. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,451 against 2,974 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 523 cases. Under section 157 (*b*) of the Criminal Procedure Code the

police refused investigation in 277 cases during the year against 270 in the previous year. Ninety appeals were preferred, in 55 of which orders were confirmed, in 14 cases appeals were rejected, in 12 cases orders were modified, in 7 cases orders were reversed and 2 cases remained pending at the end of the year.

11. The health of the people was generally good notwithstanding stray cases of cholera and small-pox. Public health.

12. The number of higher English schools was 5, as in the previous year. The number of primary schools fell from 300 to 289. The number of middle English and middle Vernacular schools fell from 50 to 48. The average daily attendance was 9,129 against 9,825 in the previous year. The number of students in the Victoria College showed an increase. The highest number on the rolls was 330 against 278 in the previous year. The aggregate expenditure on primary and secondary schools amounted to Rs. 91,673 as against Rs. 94,720 last year. The total expenditure incurred by the state for primary and secondary education was Rs. 57,562 against Rs. 56,042 in the preceding year. Education.

Tripura.

[Annual Administration Report of the Tripura State for the year 1930-31.]

13. Area, 4,116 square miles; population, 3,82,219; military force, 432; the first Tripura Bir Company has been recognised by the Government of India as an "A" class unit of the Indian States' Forces; present Maharaja—His Highness Maharaja Manikya Bir Bikram Kishore Deb Barman Bahadur. General.

14. Mr. C. G. B. Stevens, I.C.S., continued to be the Political Agent of the state during the year under report. Political Agent.

15. The gross revenue based on the average of the previous five years was Rs. 20,77,791 from the state and Rs. 12,07,225 from the zamindaries, against Rs. 20,05,191 and Rs. 12,07,728 respectively in the preceding year. The total receipts from all sources, including deposits, loans and law charges recovered, amounted to Rs. 27,69,492 against Rs. 34,37,701 in the previous year. With the opening balance of Rs. 9,74,422 the total sum available for expenditure was Rs. 37,43,914 as against Rs. 43,98,374 in the preceding year. The actual income excluding receipts under debt heads was Rs. 22,40,999 against Rs. 30,09,502 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,68,503. This abnormal drop in revenue was due to the world-wide depression. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 27,71,248 against Rs. 34,23,952 in the previous year, showing a reduction of Rs. 6,52,704. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 9,72,666. Financial.

Crops and condition of the people.

16. The rainfall of the year was 92·58 inches against 98·30 inches in the previous year. The quinquennial average was 93·39 inches. Distribution was fairly even. The principal crops in the state were paddy, cotton, *til*, mustard, jute and sugarcane. Tobacco, potatoes and chillies of various types were also grown to a considerable extent. The price of rice ranged between Rs. 3 to Rs. 8 per maund during the year. The people were very seriously affected by the general economic situation.

Public health.

17. Cholera broke out in places at different seasons of the year and there were 24 deaths out of 36 attacks as against 152 and 283 respectively in the previous year. Small-pox also occurred in places with which disease 49 persons were attacked and 9 died as against 165 and 12 respectively in the previous year. There was a recrudescence of kala-azar in certain areas.

Crime.

18. The total number of cases reported to the police was 1,377 against 1,295 in the previous year. The number of persons arrested was 802, out of which number 801 were sent up for trial. There was some improvement in the recovery of stolen property, the percentage being 22·83 against 19·74 of the previous year.

Education.

19. Including 5 high English schools and one branch high English school the total number of schools during the year was 177 against 170 in the previous year. The number of pupils was 7,588 against 7,401, excluding 1,318 pupils reading in private institutions which numbered 43, as against 241 and 11, the corresponding figures for the preceding year. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,34,669 against Rs. 1,41,110 in the previous year.

CHAPTER III.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

For—

Character of land tenures and system of surveys and settlement.

See—

Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1921-22, Part II.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1930-31.]

Total collection.

20. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 1,01,160 against 1,01,021 in the preceding year. Of these, 93,778 were permanently settled estates, 4,452 temporarily settled estates and 2,930 estates under the direct management of Government. The net increase of 139 estates was due to partition and to the creation of new estates by resumption and settlement. The current demand was Rs. 8,01,76,036 against Rs. 2,98,68,395 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 3,07,641 in the demand was due to settlement of newly accreted lands, to resettlement of temporarily settled estates on termination of existing leases, and also to progressive increase of demand in Government estates. The total realisable demand, including arrears of Rs. 36,43,902, was Rs. 3,38,19,938, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,78,13,247, being 82·23 per cent. of the total and 92·16 per cent. of the current demand, against 90·08 and 96·86 respectively in the previous year. The total outstanding balance amounted to Rs. 59,19,106 or 19·61 per cent. of the total demand. The major portion of the balance is in process of recovery.

Miscellaneous revenue.

21. The total collection of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 11·87 lakhs against Rs. 9·47 lakhs in the preceding year. The increase was chiefly under the heads "Patni sale fee," "Registration fees," "Fees under the Bengal Tenancy Act," "Value of revenue abated" and "Other receipts."

Redemption of land revenue.

22. The total number of petty estates and holdings in which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under review was 272 against 330 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed was Rs. 342 and the total price realised

Rs. 10,190, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being Rs. 434 and Rs. 12,876 respectively. The total revenue redeemed up to date comes to Rs. 37,766, for which Rs. 9,49,239 has been realised as redemption money.

Coercive measures: (*a*) Sale Law.

23. Defaults and sales during the year numbered 16,122 and 1,422 respectively as against 14,205 and 1,342 respectively in the preceding year. The number of exemptions from sale under section 18, including those for petty arrears, was 14,055 or 87·17 per cent. of the total number of defaults. Of the total number of defaults, only 8·82 per cent. actually came to sale.

(*b*) Certificates.

24. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year, other than those for cesses, was 1,25,551 against 94,344 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal was 58·46 against 56·31 in the previous year. In the majority of cases payments were made on issue of notice or on attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 6,970 cases or 7·03 per cent. of the total number of cases (99,035) disposed of during the year.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1930-31.]

Condition of the agricultural population.

25. There was no great natural calamity in the year under report but the earthquake in July did damage in Rangpur, while a cyclone in the Gaibandha subdivision of the same district damaged houses and crops. The embankment on the Goomti was breached in Tippera and a considerable area flooded and the crops destroyed. Some areas in Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna were affected by floods in the Jamuna river which caused damage to *aman* paddy. Unseasonable weather did some damage in parts of Burdwan, Bankura and Nadia. On the whole, however, conditions were good and the harvests abundant. The effect of the good harvest was nullified by fall in prices due to the world-wide depression. This resulted in a general want of money, especially felt in the jute-growing districts, where, owing to half a century of prosperity, the population is dense and a large proportion of the cultivators rely on the money they receive for their jute. There was also a big fall in wages. Conditions were worst in the areas affected by flood. To relieve distress and to enable people to cultivate their lands, a sum of Rs. 8,75,943 was distributed in agricultural loans, of which Rs. 7,73,059 was distributed in the districts of Rajshahi, Rangpur, Malda, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Dacca and Tippera. Test relief

works were also opened in the districts of Murshidabad, Rangpur, Pabna and Tippera, and a sum of Rs. 4,000 was spent on gratuitous relief.

General economic conditions.

26. The general economic conditions were decidedly unfavourable. The depression in the coal industry in the Burdwan division continued. The jute mills on the Hooghly had to reduce their working hours and to discharge a large number of their hands. Cotton mills, however, were comparatively successful. In some districts rice mills did fairly well. The boycott of foreign yarn had an adverse effect on hand-loom weavers in places like Santipur where fine cloth was produced. The tea industry in Jalpaiguri suffered from low prices and from competition with Java; but the Chittagong gardens and the hill gardens in Darjeeling which produce finer qualities of tea were not much affected. The experiment of ploughing by motor tractors in Nadia had some success. A further increase in the number of motor vehicles was reported from many districts.

Public health.

27. Public health was good on the whole except in the Burdwan division and in the districts of Nadia, Dinajpur and Dacca. Further progress was made by Government, District Boards and Union Boards in removing the scarcity of good drinking water by excavating tanks and sinking tube-wells. There were epidemics of cholera, small-pox and malaria in certain localities and kala-azar was prevalent in several districts. Measures were taken as usual to deal with the epidemics by distribution of quinine, by vaccination, and by anti-cholera inoculation and to cure kala-azar cases by injections. Anti-malaria and health associations were formed in several districts.

Other Revenue Works.

Land registration.

28. The number of proprietary interests recorded in the land registration registers was 1,058,177 at the beginning of the year as against 1,066,425 at its close.

Partition.

29. There were 245 partition cases pending at the close of the preceding year, 24 cases were instituted during the year under review, and 38 cases were disposed of. One whole-time officer was employed on partition work throughout the year in Mymensingh and another for one month in Tippera.

Land acquisition.

30. The total area of land acquired for purposes of Government, including State railways and other railways provided with land free of cost by Government, was 2,890·33 acres at a cost of Rs. 15,50,128 as against 1,663·64 acres at a cost of Rs. 14,91,417

in the previous year. The area acquired for all other purposes was 875·25 at a cost of Rs. 17,16,139 as compared with 788·6 acres at a cost of Rs. 77,50,731.

Loans: Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

31. The outstanding balance of land improvement loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,90,684, while Rs. 11,100 was advanced during the year. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 79,175, of which Rs. 42,501 was realised. The outstanding balance of agricultural loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 12,06,514 and Rs. 8,75,943 was advanced during the year. The total amount due for collection was Rs. 12,78,668 and Rs. 2,23,264 was realised.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1930-31.]

32. During the year under report 119 leases were issued for the settlement of a further area of 2,218 acres of waste land in the district of Jalpaiguri on an initial revenue of Rs. 2,730, which will eventually rise to Rs. 3,141. The waste lands of Char Nishanbaria and Kazirchar in the district of Bakarganj yielded a rental of Rs. 650. The term of the lease expired with the end of the year under report. Besides these, other available waste lands brought in Rs. 12,484 as revenue. A special scheme, as reported in the previous year, of raiyatwari settlement of 35,010 acres of char lands in Bakarganj was administratively approved by Government. The area to be settled has been found by actual measurement to be 46,577 acres. During the year under report an area of 1,075 acres was settled at a cost of Rs. 809 excluding the remuneration of amins. In Noakhali a raiyatwari settlement of 20,863 acres of char lands was concluded during the year with an immediate revenue of Rs. 42,040, which will ultimately rise to Rs. 78,841. The salami realised amounted to Rs. 76,210. An approximate area of 27,252 acres of newly formed land was taken up for raiyatwari settlement. Char Clarke within the jurisdiction of Sandwip in Noakhali district was settled on annual grazing lease in the year. There were other minor settlements of char lands in the districts of Pabna, Bogra and Tippera.

Government Estates.

Number and management.

33. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals and managed by Government, but excluding Calcutta, the Orphanganj market and Hastings Estates in the 24-Parganas, was 2,929 with a total annual demand of Rs. 60,50,350 against 2,893 with an aggregate annual demand of Rs. 59,21,716 in the previous year. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 9·55

against 9·49 in the preceding year. The increase was due to the construction of tahsil offices and quarters in the districts of Noakhali and Malda, made necessary by the extension of the area under khas management. The proposal to reduce the pay of tahsildars in the 24-Parganas and to offer commission for improvement in collection, referred to in last year's report, was dropped by the Board of Revenue. The system would have entailed difficulties in accounts without any commensurate benefit. In several districts encouraging results were obtained in Government estates from agricultural demonstrations with sugarcane, tobacco, pulses, vegetables, jute, paddy, etc., and with up-to-date implements and manures. Agricultural exhibitions were also successfully held in several places. In Faridpur a second batch of five *bhadralok* youths, on completion of their training in the agricultural farm, were provided with land and money. Some khas lands were also settled with *bhadraloks* in Nadia and the 24-Parganas. The number of schools and the pupils in Government estates increased by 263 and 21,149, respectively, during the year under review.

Grant for management and improvement.

34. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates in the Presidency, a sum of Rs. 5,77,946 was spent on management and Rs. 1,84,877 on improvements. Of the latter, which represents 3·05 of the current demand of the year under review, Rs. 32,886 was spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 92,143 on drainage, irrigation and embankments and the remainder on miscellaneous and agricultural improvements including repairs to bridges and roads, clearing of jungles, and agricultural experiments. Rupees 21,420 was spent on the improvement of hats and markets in the Presidency, Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions during the year.

Colonisation of the Sundarbans.

35. Of the 22 estates, comprising an area of 178 square miles, covered by the colonisation scheme of the Bakarganj Sundarbans the colonisation of the Tengagiri Chak remains to be completed. It is expected that the work will be completed within a year. The programme of colonisation in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans made fair progress during the year. The total expenditure incurred by Government on reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Sundarbans and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report were as below:—

	Total expenditure.	Total receipts.
	Rs.	Rs.
24-Parganas Sundarbans ..	4,96,688	5,87,806
Bakarganj Sundarbans ..	19,15,793	24,57,864

The general health of the people of the 24-Parganas and the Bakarganj Sundarbans was good during the year. There was no noticeable progress in education in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans. The material condition of the people of the Bakarganj Sundarbans showed no improvement.

Wards and Attached Estates.

Number of estates.

36. At the beginning of the year under report the total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 90. Nine new estates were brought under charge of the Court and one was released from its management during the year. Thus at the close of the year there remained 98 estates under its charge.

Collection of rent and cesses.

37. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court stood at Rs. 3,49,07,792, including an arrear of Rs. 1,93,68,227, of which Rs. 1,20,26,246 (exclusive of interest of Rs. 7,17,829) or 34·4 per cent. was collected during the year against 41·3 per cent. in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collection on current demand was reached or exceeded only in 8 estates.

Balance of rent and cesses due to estates.

38. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all the estates under management of the Court aggregated Rs. 2,12,07,923, which represented 136·4 per cent. on the current and 60·7 per cent. on the total demand, against the corresponding figures of 124·1 per cent. and 54·6 per cent. of the preceding year. The heavy outstanding balances are generally attributed to the abnormal economic situation prevailing during the year.

Debts of estates.

39. The total amount of ascertained debts that remained outstanding from the several estates in the Presidency at the close of the year under report stood at Rs. 2,50,30,606 against Rs. 2,07,84,066 in the preceding year. The increase was mainly due to the assumption of charge of new estates with heavy debts, the chief of which is the Burdwan Raj Estate, and also to the ascertainment of fresh liabilities of some estates previously under the Court. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 26,46,192 and the interest paid or otherwise reduced amounted to Rs. 15,17,087.

Management charges.

40. The percentage of the cost of management of the wards estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand showed a reduction, being 9·2 against 11·9 in the previous year.

41. The standards fixed for the minimum expenditure on education and works of improvement in solvent estates are 1 per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively on their current rent and cess demands. The total amount spent during the year under these heads by the estates in the Presidency was Rs. 4,47,506 against Rs. 3,58,018 in the preceding year. Improvements.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

42. The districts of Darjeeling, Chittagong Hill Tracts and the town of Calcutta remained outside the scope of the Bengal Tenancy Act, while in the Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district the Act applied, as before, to a modified extent. The Act operated fully in the rest of the province. Bengal Tenancy Act, the extent of its application.

43. As in previous years very little use was made by tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act when landlords did not give proper receipts after payment of rent. Measures to compel the issue of rent receipts.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for year 1930-31.]

44. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which are administered under the special Regulation I of 1900 and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands settled for plough cultivation as opposed to the shifting cultivation by *jhuming*. Six hundred and forty-eight preliminary leases of new settlements, covering an approximate area of 1,421 acres, were granted during the year against 615 covering 1,350 acres in the preceding year. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,47,450 against Rs. 1,39,389 in the previous year. Collection amounted to 46 per cent. of the total demand including arrears. Land revenue.

45. The Forest revenue decreased from Rs. 1,85,953 in the preceding year to Rs. 1,69,940. This does not include the revenue derived from the portions of the Hill Tracts which lie in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Forest divisions. Other revenues, including the revenue from the *jhum* tax, amounted to Rs. 48,004 as against Rs. 59,327 in the preceding year. There was illicit *jhuming* during the year in the Kassalong Reserve. Prompt action prevented a crisis. Steps are being taken to prevent a similar outbreak in future. Forest and other revenue.

Condition of the people.

46. Rainfall was normal during the year and the weather was generally favourable. The stock of food grains was sufficient, but the low prices prevailing for paddy and cotton affected adversely the pecuniary condition of all cultivators. The price of unginned cotton was between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 per maund, while that of paddy varied from Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 per 100 *adis*. There was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease in the district during the year. Three persons died of small-pox and 27 of cholera.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1930.]

Outturn of the year.

47. The main traverse programme consisted of 591 square miles in Hooghly and 777 square miles in Malda. The area traversed in Hooghly was at the beginning very unhealthy and many of the staff fell ill of malaria. Traverse survey was also done over a scattered area of 123·4 square miles in the Bakarganj district in connection with the revisional survey and settlement operations. The *bujharat* programme in Malda included 105 square miles done by air survey and *khanapuried* in the previous season. During *bujharat* the accuracy of the maps was tested and found to be satisfactory. By the end of September 1930 the Air Survey Company supplied rectified photographs of an area of 777 square miles of B Block based on post-pointing traverse done by the Bengal Survey staff in the period January-June. Subsequent tests of these maps on the ground at *khanapuri* demonstrated their accuracy. Of the miscellaneous work done by the Survey Section, the demarcation of the municipal holdings of C Block of Garden Reach was carried out. Minor surveys were also taken up in the districts of Darjeeling and Howrah.

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations, in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1930.]

General.

48. Survey and settlement operations were conducted in 17 districts during the year. The area for which a record of rights has now been completed is 52,629 square miles out of a total area of 65,304 square miles in the province to which the Bengal Tenancy Act applies.

Major settlement.

49. Major settlement operations were in progress in 8 districts. The operations in 24-Parganas and Malda were in full swing. Those in Murshidabad-Birbhum and the revisional settlement in Chittagong were at the closing stage.

Pabna-Bogra settlement.

50. The operations in Pabna-Bogra were brought to a close during the year. Out of a computed demand of Rs. 22,22,083 to be recovered from landlords and tenants of the area towards the cost of survey and preparation of the record-of-rights of the two districts, Rs. 21,99,905 has been realised, Rs. 15,552 written off as irrecoverable and the balance, which is covered by certificates, has been made over to the respective Collectors for realisation.

Murshidabad-Birbhum settlement.

51. This settlement is now in its closing stage. The pending work yet to be dealt with consists of printing finally framed records, recovery of survey and settlement costs, case work, diara resumption and settlement of fair rents in the last block. The number of interests printed during the year was 193,924. Twenty thousand eight hundred and seventy-four interests remained to be printed at the end of the year. The programme for recovery was Rs. 6,35,000, of which Rs. 5,90,561 was realised. The total computed demand for the area under survey and settlement operations, excluding 72·65 square miles for which recovery proposals have since been submitted to Government, came to Rs. 31,87,646, of which Rs. 26,61,878 had been recovered at the end of the year under report. Out of 31,614 cases under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, and 3,545 cases under section 106 filed during the year, 25,043 and 2,534 cases respectively were disposed of by the case work officers. The *jamabandi* programme in this settlement covered 78 estates, in 69 of which land revenue settlement had previously been made and in the rest rent settlement was in progress. As a result of the *jamabandi* proceedings the land revenue rose from Rs. 30,709-5 to Rs. 42,372-4-2. Resumption proceedings were taken up on 8 rivers, viz., (1) the Jallangi, (2) the Bhagirathi, (3) the Bhairab, (4) the Sialmari, (5) the Babla, (6) the Ajay, (7) the Maurakshi and (8) the Sal. As a result of these proceedings 57 new estates with a total revenue of Rs. 6,175 were created on the Bhagirathi, 20 estates with the total revenue of Rs. 5,589 on the Jallangi and 18 estates with a total revenue of Rs. 1,270-5-6 on the Bhairab. In addition, proposals are ready for the creation of 74 estates covering surplus alluvial accretions in the remaining rivers.

Chittagong settlement.

52. The revisional settlement in Chittagong was also at closing stage. As a result of a boundary dispute between three villages previously falling on the Noakhali side of the Feni river and village Mobarakghona falling on the Chittagong side, the district boundaries of Noakhali and Chittagong had to be fixed and relayed. This led to the formation of a new river block area of 6 square miles for which a survey and a record-of-rights was necessary. The year's programme therefore consisted of (1) survey and

preparation of a record-of-rights of this river block, (2) completion of the settlement of fair rents in the last block commenced in the previous year, and in the municipality of Chittagong, (3) case work in 6 thanas and (4) recovery of survey and settlement costs. The settlement of fair rent begun in the previous year was completed during the year. Six hundred and forty-five objections under section 104-E pending from the previous year and 1,284 out of 1,294 filed during the year were disposed of, leaving a balance of only 10. The rent-rolls of 340 mauzas were confirmed and the total increase in revenue secured was Rs. 42,299. Fair rents under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were settled in respect of 4,302 tenancies out of 13,188. A sum of Rs. 1,50,099 was recovered as survey and settlement cost during the year.

24-Parganas settlement.

53. The 24-Parganas settlement programme included (1) attestation of records and disposal of objections under section 103-A, Bengal Tenancy Act, in an area of 465 square miles, (2) final check of records of 159 square miles, (3) resumption and assessment of surplus alluvial accretions in rivers in 4 thanas, (4) recovery of survey and settlement costs of 587 square miles and (5) case work of 960 square miles. Although as many as 57,901 disputes had to be decided at the time of attestation, the programme was completed in time. The number of objections filed under section 103-A, Bengal Tenancy Act, was 27,919, of which, with the exception of 107 cases, all were disposed of during the year. Out of 79 estates taken up for *jamabandi*, settlement of rent and land revenue was completed in 56 and rent settlement in 3 estates. As a result of these proceedings an increase of Rs. 2,35,020 in revenue was obtained. Resumption proceedings were completed in the river Hooghly in thana Kulpi and a revenue of Rs. 10,587 was secured. Fair rents under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, were settled for 11,026 tenancies and 1,498 cases under section 106 were also disposed of during the year. Nine presses worked throughout the year and one extra press was started in the middle of the year. The number of interests printed was 3 11,306. The amount recovered during the year towards the survey and settlement cost was Rs. 5,07,584.

Burdwan-Hooghly-Howrah settlement.

54. The year's programme of this settlement consisted of (1) survey and preliminary record writing of 676 square miles of Kalna subdivision in the district of Burdwan, (2) attestation of records in 609 square miles surveyed in previous years, (3) final check of records in 972 square miles, (4) disposal of objections under section 103-A, Bengal Tenancy Act, (5) printing of records and (6) recovery of survey and settlement costs in thana Bhatar in district Burdwan. The area in which the operations were conducted during the year was very unhealthy and the work was

hampered by frequent sickness among the staff. The programme under (1), (2) and (3) was completed: 20,780 objections under section 103-A were filed during the year and all were disposed of. The record-of-rights of 340 square miles, consisting of 157,587 interests, were printed and out of the computed demand of Rs. 64,492, a sum of Rs. 44,403 was realised as survey and settlement cost.

Malda.

55. The survey and settlement operations in Malda commenced in 1929. The programme for the year under report consisted of internal survey, preliminary record writing and preliminary check of the records of 802 square miles including the area of 105 square miles done by air survey method and *khanapuried* in the previous year. During *bujharat* (or preliminary check) of the records of this area the accuracy of the sheets produced in the previous year by air survey method was subjected to severe test and found satisfactory in all respects. The entire programme was completed in time.

Minor operations.

56. Minor operations were carried on in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Rajshahi, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Tippera, Noakhali, Darjeeling and Khulna.

CHAPTER IV.—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Acts passed.

57. Five Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1930-31:—

(1) *The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Part Continuance) Act, 1930 (Bengal Act III of 1930)* to repeal the sections of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1925, which enabled Government to arrest and detain persons suspected of certain offences specified in that Act and to provide for the continuance for a further period of five years of the sections affording a means for the speedy trial of certain offences.

(2) *The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930 (Bengal Act VI of 1930)* to continue for a further period of five years the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1930 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1930), which conferred on the Local Government the power to arrest and detain without trial persons suspected of certain offences specified in the Act.

(3) *The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930 (Bengal Act VII of 1930)* to provide for the extension of primary education in rural areas by—

(*i*) establishing a central committee for the purpose of advising the Local Government on all matters relating to primary education;

(*ii*) providing an authority for each district to control primary education;

(*iii*) raising the funds necessary for the gradual establishment of universal primary education; and

(*iv*) providing for compulsory attendance at school.

(4) *The Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Act, 1931 (Bengal Act I of 1931)* to include the word "berm" in the definition of embankment and to amend section 61 of the Bengal Embankment Act, 1882.

(5) *The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1931 (Bengal Act II of 1931)* to remove certain doubts in regard to the interpretation of section 15 (*iii*) of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884. This was a non-official measure.

Government Bills pending.

The following Government Bills were pending at the close of the year:—

(*1*) *The Bengal State Aid to Industries Bill, 1930,* to obtain statutory power to enable State aid in the shape of loans, guarantees, the provision of a hire-purchase system, etc., to be given for the purpose of encouraging cottage industries and industries on a small scale. This Bill was introduced on the 13th August 1930 and referred to a select committee. The Report of the Select Committee on the Bill was presented to the Council on the 11th February 1931.

(*2*) *The Bengal Mining Settlements (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* to confer on the Asansol Mines Board of Health power to frame by-laws and to make the expenses payable by a mine under the Act a first charge on its profits. This Bill was introduced on the 11th February 1931 and referred to a select committee.

(*3*) *The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* to introduce into the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust the procedure of recoupment through betterment fees, as an alternative to the existing procedure of acquisition and exemption, and to repeal section 14 of the schedule to the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911, with a view to make the provisions of section 49 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, applicable to all acquisition under the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911.

Non-official Members' Bills pending.

The following Non-official Members' Bills were pending at the close of the year:—

(*1*) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1930,* by Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta, to separate the Garden Reach area from the limits of the Corporation of Calcutta and to reconstitute the Garden Reach Municipality as a municipality under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884. The consideration of the Bill was deferred until July 1931, pending examination of the report of the committee appointed to investigate the steps necessary for giving relief to the Garden Reach area.

(*2*) The following Bills were referred to select committees:—

(*a*) *The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1930,* by Rai Dr. Haridhan Dutt Bahadur, to alter the definition of edible oil or edible fat so as to enable the Corporation to control effectively the adulteration of mustard oil.

(*b*) *The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1931,* by Rai Keshab Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, to remove certain difficulties in the working of some of the sections of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, and to provide for certain other matters of a non-controversial nature.

(*c*) *The Bengal Municipal* (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1931*, by Rai Keshab Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, to give certain necessary powers to those municipalities in which a sewerage system is in existence.

(*3*) In regard to the following Bills, motions to circulate the Bills for the purpose of eliciting opinion were carried in Council.

(*a*) *The Bengal Jute Bill (II), 1930*, by Dr. Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta, to provide for the control and regulation of the production and marketing of jute.

(*b*) *The Bengal Cattle Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to provide for the protection of cattle generally, and for the protection and maintenance of breeding bulls in Bengal, especially Brahmini bulls and Khodai bulls.

(*c*) *The Calcutta Municipal* (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1931*, by Maulvi Abul Kasem, to secure increased representation for Mussalmans in the Corporation of Calcutta and to secure for the various communities and interests in the city of Calcutta adequate and proper representation on the Corporation.

(*d*) *The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement* (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1931*, by Maulvi Abdul Hakim, to repeal subsection (*1*) of section 15 of the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920, which requires an applicant to deposit or give security for the cost of work before the work is undertaken.

(*e*) *The Bengal Municipal* (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to provide for the levy of a tax on motor vehicles.

(*f*) *The Bengal Local Self-Government* (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to empower district boards to make grants to public libraries and reading rooms within their jurisdiction.

(*g*) *The Calcutta Municipal* (*Amendment*) *Bill, 1931*, by Munindra Deb Rai Mahasai, to secure separate representation for the Kalighat area at present forming part of the Bhowanipur Ward of the Corporation of Calcutta.

CHAPTER V.—POLICE, JUSTICE, JAILS AND REGISTRATION.

Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1930.]

Eastern Frontier Rifles.

58. The value of the battalion has never been so clearly demonstrated as in the year under review, when it rendered conspicuous service during the disorders in Calcutta, Chittagong and Midnapore, and in suppressing the communal disturbances in Dacca and Kishoreganj. The conduct and discipline of all ranks were excellent in exceptionally trying circumstances. The proposal to strengthen the battalion in order to avoid calling on other provinces for additional forces in times of disturbance had to be postponed in view of the serious financial situation in the province.

Recruitment and health of the Civil Police.

59. The number of constables recruited was 1,899 against 1,612 in 1929. It is satisfactory that the number of vacancies at the close of the year fell from 377 and 206 in 1928 and 1929, respectively, to 146 in the year under review. Casualties rose from 6·2 per cent. to 7·6 per cent. of the total force, an increase occurring under all heads except "death," while admissions into hospital increased by 566. This is mainly attributable to the severe strain imposed on the force by the civil disobedience movement with its corollary of curtailment of leave owing to the inadequacy of the reserves to meet such a wide-spread and prolonged emergency. Bad housing conditions also told on the health of the force. Inadequacy of funds has prevented any progress in this direction. There were 500 more constables of three years' service and over in the force as compared with the previous year, a fact which seems to indicate that the increased rates of pay sanctioned in the year 1928 have led to greater contentment. It is also satisfactory to note that, in spite of the trying conditions of service during the year, the number of resignations and desertions was considerably below the figures for 1927 and 1928. Disturbances resulting from the civil disobedience movement made necessary the imposition at different times of additional police at the cost of the inhabitants under section 15 of Act V of 1861 in the Midnapore district and in the Munshiganj

and Diamond Harbour subdivisions of the districts of Dacca and 24-Parganas respectively. In order to strengthen the armed reserve in June 1930 the recruitment of an additional force of 500 armed police was sanctioned. The experiment was made for the first time on this occasion of enrolling a number of Namasudras in this force. The re-arming of the Special Armed Force with the new ·410 bore musket was completed during the year.

Discipline.

60. With one regrettable exception, no serious breach of discipline occurred during the year. There was a further decrease in the number of officers and men judicially punished and a fall of no less than 1,636 in the number of punishments inflicted departmentally. The number of criminal complaints instituted by private individuals against the police fell from 364 to 268, and out of 231 cases disposed of during the year only 26 ended in conviction. The low percentage of convictions is an indication of the falsity of many of these complaints.

Crime statistics.

61. Though the number of cognisable cases reported decreased from 91,495 in 1929 to 89,685 in 1930, the number of true cases of serious crime showed an alarming increase. Cases of rioting increased during the year from 755 to 1,608, of murder from 506 to 601, of dacoity from 693 to 1,103, and of robbery from 386 to 523. These figures, which, though no doubt partly accounted for by unsatisfactory economic conditions, were to an overwhelming degree the result of the doctrine of civil disobedience so assiduously preached throughout the year. Experience in Bengal has shown that disturbed political conditions are invariably reflected in an increase in crimes of violence and particularly of dacoity. The history of 1930 has repeated that of 1922, when, following on the non-co-operation movement, the number of dacoity, robbery and rioting cases showed an increase of 55 per cent., 34 per cent., and 36 per cent. respectively over the quinquennial average for the years 1916 to 1920. During the year under review Congress did its utmost to wreck the chaukidari system and succeeded in some districts in hampering seriously the prevention and detection of crime. The resources of the regular police were strained to the utmost in dealing with the activities of volunteers and others whose object was avowedly to bring the administration to a standstill. The inevitable result was that the control of the police over crime in the ordinary sense suffered a serious setback. There was more crime to control and diminished means of controlling it, a situation which still continues. The large increase in dacoities was accompanied by a decrease in the percentage of dacoity cases ending in conviction, which declined from 15·6 in 1929 to 8·4 in the year under review. As in 1922 a disquieting feature of the year was the number of dacoity cases in which

young men of the middle classes participated, sometimes in conjunction with ordinary criminals. Abuse of section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code increased during the year, but this can only be remedied by legislation by the Government of India. The number of thefts of arms increased by more than 132 per cent. during the year, largely owing to the increased activity of the terrorists.

Criminal tribes.

62. The conduct of the inmates of the Karwal Nut Settlement at Saidpur showed improvement. The industrial school at Nilpalamari is showing promise of success under the care of the officers of the Salvation Army.

Working of the rural police.

63. There were several instances of good work by daffadars and chaukidars. The no-tax campaign had inevitably a serious effect on the chaukidari system, but the attempts made in this direction did not meet with any wide-spread or lasting success in any district except Midnapore, although they were sufficient to disorganise the system in some areas and generally interfered with the reporting of cases. In the Midnapore district, where chaukidars who assisted in the collection of taxes were subjected to personal violence and intimidation of the most objectionable sort, the civil disobedience movement met with considerable success. Two chaukidars were murdered by an infuriated mob for arresting some volunteers. High praise is due to those among this humble body of public servants who stuck to their duties in spite of every kind of persecution, obloquy and injury to themselves and their property. The endeavours made by the police to secure the co-operation of union boards in matters relating to the prevention and detection of crime were not unfruitful.

Revolutionary crime.

64. Beginning in April with the Chittagong Armoury raid, the year was marked by a long series of terrorist outrages. This spectacular and, in a way, successful enterprise gave a great impetus to the terrorist movement and was followed by no less than six shooting cases, including the Writers' Buildings outrage, three of which ended fatally, and two bomb outrages, besides other overt acts of a less serious nature. Immediately after the Chittagong Armoury raid the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance was promulgated. This Ordinance was subsequently replaced by the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930. At the close of the year 454 persons had been arrested under the Ordinance and Act, of whom 52 were subsequently released. The increased activity of the terrorists combined with the disturbed state of the districts made inevitable a large increase in the staff of the central and district intelligence branches.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1930.]

Strength.

65. The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police at the close of the year was 5,747, a decrease of 3 on the previous year. The number of resignations during the year was 51 as against 46 in the preceding year. There was, however, a decrease of 13 in the number of vacancies at the end of the year, and it is satisfactory to note that the increased rate of pay in the rank of constable has given a stimulus to recruitment and enabled a better type of recruit to be secured. The improvement in the health of the force was maintained in spite of the great strain placed on all ranks by the civil disobedience movement.

Housing.

66. Although the need of improved police accommodation in the suburban areas is recognised, it has not yet been possible to take this work in hand owing to severe financial stringency.

Discipline.

67. There was a large decrease in the number of judicial punishments inflicted on members of the force and also in the number of dismissals and degradations.

Crime statistics.

68. A substantial fall took place in the total number of cognizable cases reported to the police, but a great increase in the number of rioting cases, a fact which is to be ascribed to the civil disobedience movement. The same increase is found in the figures of other crimes of violence which have a tendency to be more prevalent during periods of excitement or civil commotion. As against this, the number of true cases of burglary, theft and receiving stolen property showed a marked decrease. The effects of the civil disobedience campaign are reflected in an increase of 50 per cent. over the figures of the previous year in the number of persons detained in police lock-ups, viz.,—21,985 as against 14,239. The detective department was as usual engaged in tracing out various fraudulent activities and attained very successful results. The activities of a number of swindling agencies under the guise of banks were brought to the notice of Government and are engaging Government's attention.

Revolutionary crime, seditious speeches and writings.

69. A series of political outrages by the terrorist party began in August with the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Commissioner of Police. Shortly after this attempt bombs were thrown on the Jorabagan Court building and on the roof of the Eden Garden outpost, causing injuries to a number of people, one of whom died. This was followed in December by the cowardly murder of Lt.-Col. Simpson, the Inspector-General of Prisons, in his office in Writers' Buildings. As a result of investigations in

connection with the first three outrages, a terrorist conspiracy was unearthed and 13 Bengalis were sent up for trial, 8 of them being convicted and sentenced to terms ranging from transportation for 20 years to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. Throughout the civil disobedience movement, Congress had the vigorous support of the Indian press, practically the whole of which devoted itself to anti-Government propaganda as false as sensational. The number of prosecutions for seditious speeches was inevitably high, while two persons were convicted of attempts to tamper with the loyalty of the police. Prosecutions were instituted in a number of cases under sections 124-A and 153-A of the Indian Penal Code, and there was a large increase in the number of publications which it was found necessary to proscribe under section 99-A of the Criminal Procedure Code. When, with the promulgation of the Indian Press Ordinance, it became possible to demand security from the keepers of printing presses and printers and publishers of newspapers, Congress resorted to the publication of unauthorised news-sheets, bulletins, leaflets and pamphlets. These tactics were met by the institution of numerous prosecutions under the Press and Registration of Books Act, the Police Act, the Picketing Ordinance and various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Public order.

70. The situation resulting from the civil disobedience movement and the activities of the terrorists subjected the Calcutta police to the heaviest strain the force has yet had to bear. Street rioting, of which the most serious was that of the 15th April in Bhowanipore when tramcars were set on fire, officers and men of the Fire Brigade injured and fire engines damaged, hartals, unlawful processions and meetings, and picketing combined with intimidation and violence entailed long and harassing hours of duty and were a severe test of the fortitude of the force. Attempts were made to tamper with the loyalty of the Indian ranks, but did not deflect them from their duty, and all ranks faced the situation and performed the difficult task of maintaining order with an alacrity and cheerfulness, a patience and restraint which do the highest credit to the force. The loyalty, courage and devotion to duty displayed by all ranks during one of the most trying periods in the history of the Calcutta police deserves high appreciation.

Labour.

71. There was a great deal of labour unrest during the year, but on one occasion only the situation became serious, when, on April 1st, the resentment felt by the carters and transport workers at the enforcement of certain rules made under the Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act (Bengal Act I of 1920) culminated in fierce rioting on Howrah bridge and the neighbourhood, in the course of which the police were compelled to open fire several times. The

situation was competently and resolutely handled and was brought under control without delay. There were eight industrial strikes during the year.

Traffic.

72. Many improvements were effected in the working of the Motor Vehicles Department, particularly in expediting the issue of licences and registration certificates and in the introduction of the English system of public service vehicles licence. Measures were taken to deal with the horn nuisance. Over two thousand cases under the Motor Vehicles Act were pending at the close of the year. The proposal to form a traffic bureau could not be proceeded with owing to the financial situation. The question of amending the Motor Vehicles Act to provide for the composition of offences is under attention by the Government of India.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1930.]

Judicial staff.

73. For sessions work the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges throughout the year. Ten Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge were employed in nine districts and decided 120 cases. There were also 19 temporary Additional Sessions Judges employed for varying periods in different districts on sessions work.

Magisterial staff.

74. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 479 stipendiary and 555 honorary magistrates. Three special magistrates were employed, one each at Midnapore, Pabna and Noakhali for 142, 5 and 90 days respectively during the year. They decided 266, 1 and 232 cases respectively. Of the 479 stipendiary magistrates 288 exercised first, 154 second and 37 third class powers. There were 109 benches of magistrates constituted from among 510 honorary magistrates in the mufassal.

Offences reported.

75. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 392,402 against 458,696 in 1929.

Cases found to be true.

76. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 325,514 were found to be true, and of these 282,574 were brought to trial.

Original Jurisdiction.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

Number of cases.

77. Of the total number of cases brought to trial 122,936 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 159,638 in the courts of magistrates in the

mufassal. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates, was 37,373 less than in 1929. There was a decrease in the number of cases under special and local laws as well as under the Penal Code. Under the latter head the most noticeable features were the decrease in offences affecting public health and the increase in cases affecting the public tranquillity, which rose from 11 to 51.

78. The percentage of conviction before stipendiary magistrates amounted to 78·7 and before honorary magistrates sitting singly 98·9. Results of trials.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

79. Including cases committed to the sessions 161,069 cases were disposed of during the year. The disposals were distributed as follows:— Cases disposed of.

District Magistrates	198
Subordinate stipendiary Magistrates	133,159
Honorary Magistrates	17,419
Benches of Magistrates	9,729
Special Magistrates	499

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 65 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 263, the largest number having been decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri (97).

80. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates, 241,018 persons were accused. Of these 120,157 or 49·9 per cent. were convicted and 120,861 or 50·1 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. Results of trials.

81. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:— Punishments.

Imprisonment	24,228
Fine or forfeiture	91,151
Whipping	133

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 11,96,598. Rs. 7,49,952 was realised, of which Rs. 1,18,568 was paid as compensation to complainants.

82. The total number of miscellaneous cases decided during the year was 8,169 against 8,795 in the previous year. Miscellaneous Proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Witnesses.

83. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 359,589 as compared with 380,741 in 1929. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 155,597 or 30·2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. The percentage in the preceding year was 31·8. The amount paid to witnesses on account of expenses fell from Rs. 3,32,434 in 1929 to Rs. 3,29,465 in 1930.

Union benches.

84. Eight hundred and eighty-eight union benches established in twenty districts under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, tried 92,024 persons, of whom 72,756 were acquitted or discharged and 7,570 convicted, while 9,972 persons remained under trial at the end of the year. The cases of 1,726 persons were transferred for trial to other courts, 123 persons were sentenced to terms of imprisonment and orders of fine or forfeiture were passed against 7,447 persons. The amount of fine imposed was Rs. 48,238 and the amount realised Rs. 37,825, out of which Rs. 775 was ordered to be paid as compensation. One thousand and fourteen persons applied for the revision of orders passed by union benches.

III.—Courts of Sessions.

Cases disposed of.

85. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of session was 1,755 against 1,658 in the previous year.

Results of trials.

86. There were 6,769 persons, or 373 more than in 1929, under trial before the courts of sessions. Of the 5,061 persons tried 2,339 or 46·2 per cent. were convicted and 2,506 were acquitted or discharged, while the cases of 216 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

87. The following sentences were passed by the courts of sessions:—

Death	25
Transportation or penal servitude	87
Imprisonment	2,124
Fine or forfeiture	234
Whipping	6

In addition to these sentences, 272 persons were required to give security. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 28,440 of which Rs. 5,807 was realised.

Witnesses.

88. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 34,526. Of these 23,495 were examined and 11,031

discharged without examination. The amount paid to witnesses on account of expenses was Rs. 1,31,626 as compared with Rs. 1,33,306 in 1929.

89. The number of cases disposed of was 71 against the same number in the previous year. Altogether 121 persons were tried, of whom 51 were convicted and 70 acquitted. Cases disposed of in the High Court Sessions.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

90. At the opening of the year 204 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 906 appeals were preferred and 965 were decided, leaving 145 pending at its close. Number of appeals.

91. Six hundred and twenty-eight appeals against sentences of courts of sessions were decided. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 496, modified in 56 and reversed in 36 instances, while 38 cases were remanded for retrial. Three hundred and fifteen appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 290, modified in 10 and reversed in 14 cases. One case was disposed of otherwise. Twelve appeals against acquittal preferred by the Local Government were decided during the year. Six of these appeals were dismissed. In 3 cases the accused were convicted and in 3 cases retrial was ordered. Results of appeals.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

92. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session was 4,594 against 4,582 in the previous year. In the appeals decided 8,777 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,798 persons or 20·4 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 3,075 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,521 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 2,104 were acquitted. The cases of 279 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Sessions Courts.

93. In the courts of magistrates 3,697 appeals were decided against 3,580 in the previous year. In the appeals decided 6,714 persons were concerned. Of these the appeals of 1,063 were rejected, and the sentences on 2,606, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,669 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 54·6 per cent. Of the remainder 937 appellants or 13·9 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 2,008 or 29·9 per cent. were acquitted, while the cases of 100 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1929 the results were more favourable to appellants. Magistrates' Courts.

GENERAL.

94. Compared with the figures of 1929 there was a decrease in the number of criminal cases disposed of by magistrates both in the mufassal and in the Presidency town. There was also a decrease in the revisional work, but an increase in the appellate work disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal. In the courts of sessions there was an increase in the outturn of original and appellate work but a decrease in that of revisional work. In the High Court there was a decrease in original and revisional work but an increase in appellate work. One hundred and sixty persons (37 in the Presidency town, 36 in Hooghly, 25 each in the 24-Parganas and Jalpaiguri, 9 in Noakhali, 8 in Murshidabad, 7 in Bankura, 5 in Nadia, 2 in Dinajpur and 1 each in Burdwan, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Tippera) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these 14 were acquitted, 144 convicted and 2 remained under trial at the close of the year. The reports of the districts in which Union Benches are established show that the benches are growing in popularity and affording some relief to magistrates.

Receipts and charges.

95. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 41,96,086. Of this amount Rs. 22,64,134 was for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,88,359 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,79,015 for process-servers, Rs. 7,19,262 for other establishments and Rs. 8,45,316 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 22,00,059. Of this amount Rs. 10,64,507 was under fines, Rs. 1,43,108 under process fees, Rs. 2,61,905 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 6,27,586 under court-fee stamps receipts other than the above, and Rs. 1,02,953 was miscellaneous receipt. Compared with the figures of 1929, the receipts show a decrease of over Rs. 3,77,000 and the charges an increase of over Rs. 2,13,000.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1930.]

Judicial staff.

96. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1930 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small

Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and two the powers of a Munsif. One temporary Additional High Court Judge was employed throughout the year. There were also 19 temporary Additional District Judges, 24 temporary Additional Subordinate Judges and 5 temporary Additional Munsifs employed for varying periods in different districts.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

1.—High Court.

Original suits for disposal.

97. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1930 was 5,650 against 6,265 in the previous year. Of 2,502 suits instituted during 1930 1,588 were for money or movable property, 251 were mortgage suits and 186 were for immovable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 3,75,50,831 as compared with Rs. 3,89,26,728 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

98. The number of suits decided in 1930 was 3,581. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 2,069. The number pending at the close of the year was less than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 1,054. There were 505 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 1,061 on the figures of the previous year.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

99. During the year 471 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 9,322 interlocutory applications were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications 4,486 were disposed of by the court or by a Judge in chambers and the remainder (4,836) by the Registrar and the Master.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, IX of 1899.

100. The number of arbitration awards filed and the number of applications made in execution thereof were 208 and 115 respectively.

Insolvency cases.

101. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 833 respectively. The number instituted during the year was 229. Of the 1,225 cases for disposal 216 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 129 cases and the insolvents obtaining relief in 87 cases. There were also 2,574 applications of a miscellaneous character disposed of during the year.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

102. Ten appeals to the Privy Council from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and five appeals were admitted

during the year. Of these seven were disposed of by the Privy Council and eight remained pending at the close of the year.

Financial results.

103. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including, under the head of expenditure, the salaries of the judges:—

Year	*Receipts.	†Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1928	24,58,325	11,41,858	7,28,318
1929	82,83,942	9,57,511	6,89,194
1930	26,77,513	9,24,709	6,54,710

* Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.
† Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration.

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Pingna Munsifi.

104. The munsifi at Pingna in the district of Mymensingh was abolished with effect from the 2nd January 1930, the local limits of its jurisdiction being incorporated within the local limits of the Jamalpur and Tangail munsifis in that district and the munsif's court at Pingna transferred to Jamalpur as 2nd court with effect from that date.

Original suits instituted.

105. The number of suits instituted in 1930 was 622,184, a decrease of 15,262 on the figures of the previous year.

Local distribution.

106. There was decrease in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Jessore, Bakarganj, Dinajpur and Chittagong. The decrease was most marked in Mymensingh, Midnapore, Dacca and Pabna-Bogra. In Mymensingh, Dacca and Pabna-Bogra the decrease occurred chiefly in money suits and in Midnapore in rent suits. The largest number of suits, viz., 51,287, was instituted in the district of Mymensingh, where the number of money suits (24,767) was the greatest in the province. The institutions did not exceed 50,000 in any other district.

Number of suits disposed of.

107. The number of suits disposed of was 668,125, an increase of 27,196 on the figures of 1929. Of the total number 645,362 were disposed of by Munsifs, 15,897 by Subordinate Judges, 6,512 by Small Cause Court Judges, 354 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase under all grades of courts except in the courts of the District and Additional Judges.

Results of suits decided.

108. Of the suits disposed of during the year 83,097 were decided without trial, 511,597 without contest, and 73,431 on contest. Of the 73,431 suits decided on contest 559 were disposed of on reference to arbitration. Of the remainder 60,942, or 83·6 per cent., resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, 11,930, or 16·4 per cent., in favour of the defendants.

Applications for trial.

109. The number of applications for an order to set aside an *ex-parte* judgment or a judgment on default preferred during the year was 19,940. Of these 9,313 or 46·7 per cent. were successful.

Suits decided by munsifs.

110. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 621,065 to 645,362 an increase of 24,297. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,667 against 2,577 in 1929. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 25·8 per cent. of the total.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

111. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 15,897, an increase of 2,215 on the figures of the previous year. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 7,337 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 8,560. Of these 31·4 per cent. and 12·2 per cent. respectively were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure showed an increase and under the Small Cause Court procedure a decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

112. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,512 original suits, of which 948 were contested or 164 more than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

113. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 174,474 against 209,541 in the previous year. Of the pending suits 15,085 had been pending for more than a year, 66,551 for more than six months but less than a year and 31,115 for more than three months but less than six months, representing a decrease in the arrears for each period. Of the suits pending over one year 10,928 were in the courts of Munsifs and 4,157 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 1,008 and 432, respectively, as compared with 1929. About 45·6 per cent. of these suits were, however, pending for final decree.

Miscellaneous cases.

114. Excluding transfers there were 115,691 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature before the courts for disposal, against 109,249 in the previous year. Of these 94,521 were disposed of. One hundred and seventy-nine applications for probates and letters of administration were treated as suits on becoming contested, and 20,991 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases

disposed of 39,359 were decided without trial, 39,492 without contest, and 15,670 on contest or on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases 705 were pending over a year, the 24-Parganas being responsible for the largest number (245).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

115. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1930 and the number pending at its close were 23,905, 24,805 and 4,014, respectively. The figures show an increase of 577, 770 and 54 respectively as compared with the previous year. Fifty-one applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits, excepting those not exceeding Rs. 10. The number of suits, the value of which cannot be estimated in money, was also larger than in the previous year.

Mode of disposal.

116. Of the suits disposed of 960 were decided without trial, 20,159 without contest and 3,686 on contest or upon reference to arbitration. Of the 4,014 suits pending at the close of the year 591 were over three months old, against 750 in 1929.

Union courts.

117. There were 776 union courts established in seventeen of the districts in the Presidency under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919. The receipts amounted to Rs. 1,19,009 and the expenditure to Rs. 32,358. There were 79,856 suits instituted during the year for money or movable property representing a total value of Rs. 32,14,883. Twelve thousand three hundred and ninety-five suits remained pending at the close of the year. The number of miscellaneous cases for trial was 26,213, of which 3,398 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of revision cases from the decision of these courts was 397, of which 98 were dismissed or not prosecuted. In 154 cases the decision of the union court was confirmed, in 18 cases it was modified and in 34 cases it was reversed. Thirty-nine cases were remanded and 88 remained pending at the close of the year.

Appellate Jurisdiction.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

118. One hundred and twenty-eight appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 72 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 117 were decided and 83 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 8 more than in 1929. On the Appellate Side 26

Letters Patent appeals were filed during the year and 7 were pending at its commencement. Of these 23 were decided and 10 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

119. The following statement shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of provincial courts of original and appellate jurisdiction respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of Assam.

	Remaining at the close of 1929.	Brought before the court in 1930.	Disposed of in 1930.	Remaining at the close of 1930.
First appeals—				
From original decrees ..	821	304	(a) 334	791
From original orders ..	313	315	343	285
From orders of the Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923 ..	3	....	2	1
Second appeals—				
From appellate decrees ..	4,798	3,081	(b) 3,504	4,375
From appellate orders ..	142	225	223	144
Total ..	6,077	3,925	4,406	5,596

(a) Including 31 Will cases.
(b) Of these, 1,298 were decided by a single judge.

Results of appeals.

120. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:—

	Affirmed.			Modified or reversed.		
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.
Appeals from—						
Original decrees ..	45	79	....	80	37	....
Appellate decrees ..	605	803	....	142	251	....
Miscellaneous appeals	77	128	2	72	48	....

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals for disposal.

121. Excluding transfers, the number of appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1930 was 35,687 against 36,807 in 1929. The number of appeals instituted during the year was 16,635 against 16,915 in the previous year. Of these 7,778 were in title suits, 6,870 in rent suits and 1,987 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show a decrease of 23, 178 and 79 respectively.

Appeals disposed of.

122. The number of appeals decided was 18,153. There was a decrease of 200 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and an increase of 145 in the number decided by Subordinate Judges as compared with the previous year. The decrease in disposals was spread over ten districts and was largest in Tippera (816), followed by Noakhali (328), Rangpur (260) and Jessore (256). On the other hand there was a noticeable increase in Birbhum (441), which was due to the fact that a larger number of rent appeals was disposed of during the year.

Appeals pending.

123. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 17,534 and was less than that of 1929 by 1,065. The number of appeals over one year old fell from 5,178 to 3,946. Hooghly was accountable for the largest number, viz., 666.

Results of appeals.

124. The results on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year were as follows:—In 9,200 cases, or 50·7 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 3,062 cases, or 16·9 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,797 cases, or 15·4 per cent., it was reversed. Seven hundred and forty-one, or 4 per cent., were remanded and 2,353, or 13 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results were, on the whole, less favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

General.

125. There was a large decrease in the number of original suits instituted in the subordinate courts but the disposals were greater. The result was an appreciable reduction of the pending file. The number of appeals preferred and disposed of in the lower appellate courts was smaller than in the previous year. The disposals, however, exceeded the institutions and a reduction was effected in the pending file. The number of year-old suits and appeals pending at the close of the year was smaller than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, the institutions were less and the disposals were more than in the previous year and consequently there was a decrease in the pending file. Union courts are reported generally to be viewed with appreciation by the public and to be working satisfactorily and affording some relief to the Munsifs.

Receipts and charges of Civil Courts.

126. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 1,96,89,732, showing a decrease of Rs. 65,65,679 on the figures of 1929. The charges amounted to Rs. 88,21,585, showing a decrease of Rs. 88,142. Including the amount realised on account of duty, on probate, etc.

	Rs.
In the High Court	14,37,966*
In other courts	2,55,808*
Total	16,93,774*

* The figures are for the financial year.

The profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,08,68,147; excluding this item, it amounted to Rs. 91,74,373.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

	Rs.
In stamps—	
Process fees	22,50,951
Other fees	1,63,86,362
In cash or special stamps—	
Other receipts	3,21,774
Copying and comparing fees	7,26,867
Fines	3,778
Total ..	1,96,89,732

CHARGES.

	Rs.
Salaries of judicial officers	32,39,382
Establishment—	
Process-servers	10,16,093
Others	30,75,953
Copyists' fees	5,22,261
Contingencies and refunds	9,67,896
Total ..	88,21,585

There was a decrease in receipts under all heads except "Fines." Under the head "Other fees" the decrease amounted to more than Rs. 62,00,000. The decrease in expenditure was under all heads except "Salaries of judicial officers" and "Contingencies and refunds" and was largest under the head "Process-servers," which exceeded Rs. 63,000.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the Scheduled District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1930.]

Administration of justice.

127. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921, to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The Courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the Chief Court of the District and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong division being the Supreme Court.

Criminal justice.

128. The number of offences reported during the year 1930 was 457, of which 290 were returned as true and 246 were brought to trial. Three hundred and eighty-one persons were under trial; of these 260 were acquitted or discharged and 101 were convicted. In the cases ending in conviction two persons were sentenced to imprisonment of more than six months while in the other cases the punishments were less.

Civil justice.

129. Nine hundred and fourteen civil suits were instituted during the year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 1,05,160. Of the 1,171 suits before the courts all but 244 were disposed of.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department of the Presidency of Bengal, for the year 1930.]

Jail population.

130. The most noticeable feature of the year was an abnormal rise in the number of prisoners, due almost entirely to the admission of persons convicted of offences committed in connection with the civil disobedience movement. At the commencement of the year the total registered accommodation for convicts was 12,698 and that for under-trials 1,080, a total of 13,778. By the month of August the number of convicts had risen to 15,363 and the number of under-trial prisoners to 2,691. In September the figures were 16,839 and 2,497 respectively, and in October 17,267 and 2,576. The total number increased to over 20,000 before any substantial decline began.

Accommodation.

131. The difficulty of adjusting the accommodation available was increased by two factors. The first was the abnormal number of under-trial prisoners. Whereas convicted prisoners can be transferred to special or temporary jails to relieve overcrowding, under-trial prisoners have to remain in the jail most convenient for their production before court. In the second place the

introduction of superior divisions in the classification system accorded privileges to a considerable number of convicts which practically doubled the space occupied by each prisoner so classified, and also introduced fresh complications in regard to the segregation of different classes of prisoners and in regard to the provision of suitable accommodation for the superior classes.

Additional accommodation.

132. In these circumstances the department was forced to undertake an extensive and costly programme of additional accommodation. The extra accommodation was found by utilising existing jail buildings to the fullest possible extent and by the adaptation of buildings into special jails at Dum-Dum, Berhampore and Hijli. The necessary staff had also to be found, and very largely improvised as need arose, the department having no reserves of any kind. The original registered accommodation of 13,778 was increased to 15,130 in August, to 16,173 in September, to 18,051 in October and, at the commencement of the year 1931, further additional accommodation for 2,000 with room for expansion to 4,000 had been completed. The result was that, in spite of a continued and steady rise in the jail population, overcrowding showed a progressive decline from the month of August onwards.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

133. In the year under review a further substantial drop in the death-rate per mille was secured to the lowest figure ever recorded in this province, namely, 9·3 per mille.

Jail expenditure.

134. As a result of the increase of population the department incurred an expenditure of over Rs. 7½ lakhs in excess of the expenditure of the previous year for guarding and maintaining prisoners. It is estimated that special diet, clothing and bedding of prisoners in the superior divisions cost over Rs. 3½ lakhs. Sums amounting to over Rs. 3½ lakhs were spent in providing additional accommodation and for the conversion of buildings.

Long detention and young offenders.

135. Two very undesirable features still appear with distressing prominence, namely, the very large number of young persons sent to jail, and the unduly long detention of prisoners awaiting trial.

Borstal School.

136. The Borstal Institution at Bankura made very encouraging progress. The Managing Committee took great interest in its development.

Reforms.

137. The amendment of the rules to provide for the better moral instruction of prisoners in jails is an interesting experiment and dependent for its success and future expansion on suitable workers presenting themselves. Further reforms could not be attempted owing to financial stringency coupled with the extraordinary conditions above described.

Jail manufacture.

138. The work of the manufactory departments suffered from the general disorganisation of jail routine. The Indian Stores Department was unable to furnish the department with orders, while outside orders generally were affected by the political situation and by trade depression. Excellent work was, however, done in supplying the large amount of extra clothing, equipment and furniture required by the department to deal with the abnormal excess population.

Press comment.

139. From the commencement of the civil disobedience movement early in the year a section of the press published a stream of false information regarding the treatment of prisoners. Articles containing constructive comment on the work of the jails as part of an anti-criminal system remained conspicuous by their absence, and the interest of the general public in what is commonly called "the ordinary convict" continued small.

Death of Colonel N. S. Simpson, I.M.S.

140. The campaign of malicious calumny directed against the department and its officers had its logical sequel in the assassination of the late Colonel N. S. Simpson, I.M.S., Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, by three heavily armed revolutionists who, entering his room together, shot him as he sat at his desk.

Discipline and difficulties in maintaining it.

141. Throughout the year the staff of the department were subjected to a continuous and heavy strain. The most persistent efforts were made to intimidate them and to undermine both their loyalty and authority. In spite of these efforts the enormously increased jail population was kept in safe custody with very little increase in escape; of serious incidents, other than those manufactured for propaganda purposes by a hostile press, there were none; the standard of health was well maintained, and, though discipline to a certain extent suffered, it did not suffer materially among the ordinary convict population, or to the extent which might have been expected from the inclusion in privileged divisions of so many convicts whose chief object and occupation was to embarrass the administration.

Registration.

[Statistical returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1930.]

Progress and statistics.

142. The number of offices open at the end of the year was 419 against 420 at the end of 1929. One office of a Joint-Sub-Registrar was abolished during the year under review. The total income of the Registration Department decreased from Rs. 35,32,293 in 1929 to Rs. 27,07,013, i.e., by 23·3 per cent. The decrease was mainly due to decrease in registrations. The

total expenditure also decreased from Rs. 19,46,340 in 1929 to Rs. 18,61,459 in 1930, i.e., by 4·3 per cent. The decrease was due to lower expenditure on extra copying establishment on account of decrease in registrations.

Results.

143. The outstanding feature of the working of the Indian Registration Act in Bengal during 1930 was a marked fall in the number of registrations, which fell from 1,632,756 in 1929 to 1,263,309 in 1930, i.e., by 22·6 per cent. This decrease was shared by all the districts in the province except the district of Darjeeling in the Rajshahi division. Taking the province by divisions the decrease was largest in the Dacca division, where it amounted to some 32·6 per cent. as compared with the figures of 1929. The Rajshahi division was next, with a decrease of 24·3 per cent., Chittagong showed a decrease of 22·7 per cent., Burdwan 19 per cent. and the Presidency division 8·2 per cent. The principal causes of the fall were the general trade depression and the unsatisfactory financial and economic condition prevailing in the province owing to the low price of staple crops. To some extent also the compulsory payment of transfer fees at the time of registration under the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, the operation of section 107 of the Transfer of Property Act as amended by section 55 of Act XX of 1929 and the dislocation of business due to the civil disobedience movement were responsible for the abnormal decrease. Although there was a total decrease in registrations, the number of registrations increased in the district of Darjeeling by 5 per cent. The increase was due to the registrations of Darjeeling Improvement Fund Hat Pattas.

Working of the Special Marriage Act, III of 1872.

144. Seventy-three marriages were registered during the year 1930 under the Special Marriage Act, III of 1872, against 62 marriages registered in 1929. Of these 57 were registered in Calcutta, 7 in Dacca, 2 each in Chittagong and Tippera and one each in Howrah, Bogra, Faridpur, Jalpaiguri and Nadia. There were 42 Marriage Registrars, including 28 *ex-officio* Registrars, as in the previous year. Of these 14 registered marriages. In 2 marriages the brides were Moslem converts from the Hindu religion.

Working of the Muhammadan Registration Act and the Kazis' Act.

145. There were 378 offices at the end of the year 1930 against 372 at the close of 1929. The total number of ceremonies (marriages and divorces) registered during the year was 199,824 against 110,150 in 1929, showing an increase of 81·41 per cent. The Dacca and Chittagong divisions showed a considerable increase in the number of registrations in respect of marriages only, which is attributed mainly to the passing of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, which Act came into force from the 1st April 1930. The

increase in the other divisions is attributed partly to the passing of the same Act and partly to the growing popularity of Act I of 1876. There were 10 deaths and one resignation among Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis during the year 1930. The total receipts, including gratuities, of Muhammadan Registrars amounted to Rs. 4,20,091-6 during the year 1930 against Rs. 2,42,142-8 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 73·4 per cent. The average income of Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis during the year under review was Rs. 1,111-6 against Rs. 650-14-9 in 1929 and Rs. 609 in 1928. During the year under review two meetings of the permanent committee were held.

CHAPTER VI.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Calcutta Corporation.

[Administration Report of the Calcutta Corporation for the year 1930-31.]

Personnel.

146. Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta was elected Mayor for the fifth time but, as he could not take the oath of allegiance as an Alderman, his seat became vacant, and Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was elected as Mayor in August 1930. Babu Santosh Kumar Basu was elected as Deputy Mayor.

Finances.

147. The revenue account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 1,12,55,207. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,35,36,544 and the payments to Rs. 2,34,32,627. Adjusting assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,45,04,957 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,35,47,266. On the basis of actual receipts and payments, there was a balance of Rs. 1,13,59,124 of which Rs. 99,77,338 was in cash and Treasury Bills. The balance consisted of stores-in-stock Rs. 6,38,115 and advances Rs. 7,43,670. The latter figure includes Rs. 1,27,212 being temporary advance from revenue for financing the scheme for the extension of water-supply and other capital works to be recouped on the raising of loans. Towards the end of January 1931, the Corporation obtained the sanction of Government to the raising of two 6¼ per cent. loans of Rs. 33 lakhs and Rs. 32½ lakhs, having currencies of 29 years and 30 years respectively. Out of each of these two loans, Rs. 15 lakhs was reserved by the Corporation with the sanction of Government for the investment of the sinking fund and other funds. The balance of Rs. 35½ lakhs was underwritten at par, an underwriting charge of Re. 1-2 per cent. being paid. No debenture loan was repaid during the year, but Rs. 5,458-7 was repaid to Government on account of the loans of the added areas. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 8,47,26,792, including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the Sterling Debenture loan of £500,000. Against this indebtedness there was an accumulation of Rs. 1,86,82,144 in the sinking funds. The total actual liability on account of loan charges during the year 1930-31 amounted to Rs. 52,71,930.

Assessment department.

148. At the close of the year the assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 10,27,40,507, being an increase of Rs. 36,69,866 over the valuation at the end of the previous year. This was due

to the revaluation of properties made during the year for which the revised assessments became operative, but also included those cases in respect of which objection pending during the previous years were disposed of in the course of the year under report.

Surveyor and Valuer's department.

149. The department prepared plans and estimates for 118 projects involving an area of about 168½ bighas of land at an estimated cost of about Rs. 39½ lakhs and acquired a little over 6 bighas of land at a cost of Rs. 2,16,000. About 4 kottahs of land, valued at Rs. 7,000 were received free of cost from different parties.

Collection department.

150. The total gross demand on account of consolidated rate, including the balance outstanding at the end of the previous year, was Rs. 1,97,51,564, of which Rs. 1,79,83,069 was collected, Rs. 6,81,568 was cancelled on account of holdings being vacant, and demands aggregating Rs. 14,008 were cancelled as irrecoverable. The percentage of collection on the net current demand was 97·57 against 98·09 in the previous year. The decrease in the percentage of collection and the increase in outstandings is to some extent due to economic causes beyond the control of the Collector, and the total outstanding demand in the hands of the Collector at the end of the year was Rs. 4,53,000, being Rs. 1,17,000 more than at the beginning.

Licence department.

151. The total receipt for the year 1930-31 on account of licence taxes amounted to Rs. 19,86,857, including Rs. 12,37,380 on account of the tax on trades and professions, Rs. 4,48,075 tax on carriages and animals, Rs. 1,19,543 taxes under sections 179, 386, 405, 396-413, Rs. 1,80,835 were cart registration fees and Rs. 1,024 on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The total number of licences issued during the year was 91,894 and the total collection under the Licenced Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,34,859.

Lighting department.

152. There were 18,693 gas lamps in the city at the end of the year, of which 212 were added during the year. The number of oil and electric lamps was 1,005 and 2,412 respectively.

Water-supply.

153. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to about 55·6 million gallons and of unfiltered water to about 46·5 million gallons, making a total average of nearly 102 million gallons. The supply per head per day was 51·3 gallons of filtered water and 51·1 gallons of unfiltered water (based on the census population of 1921). The arrangement for supplementing the supply of drinking water by means of lorries continued in Maniktala and Garden Reach and in portions of District IV. Further progress was made with the works in connection with the Water-supply Extension Scheme.

At Pulta the work in connection with the remaining 7 filter beds was completed and 5 of them were put into commission during the year. The work of shifting the machinery from the Pressure Station to the new Intake Station and clearing the compound was taken in hand. As the result of arbitration, the dispute with the contractors in connection with the construction of the underground reservoir at Tallah was settled by the payment of Rs. 64,543 to the contractors. A contract has been let for the supply and fixing of 3 Venturimeters. The contract for supplying, fitting and fixing manhole branch air valve on the steel main for Zone IV has also been let out. The laying of the 42-inch steel main in Garden Reach has been taken in hand. A total length of 26,700 feet has to be laid. The work of supplying and laying the pipes has been entrusted to two contractors who have finished a length of about 7,000 feet.

The total expenditure on account of the Water-supply Extension Scheme amounted to Rs. 2,28,69,000 up to the end of the year 1930-31, the sanctioned estimate for the whole scheme being Rs. 2,65,78,000.

154. A scheme for the improvement of the internal drainage of Calcutta at an estimated cost of Rs. 65 lakhs was approved by the Corporation and was submitted to Government for sanction during the year. A scheme for a new outfall to the Kulti river was prepared by the Corporation. It is now under the examination of an expert committee appointed by Government. Drainage.

The principal drainage work in course of execution during the year under review was the construction of the 84-inches and 87-inches diameter storm water drains in the Kidderpore area. Out of a total length of 1,200 r. feet about 780 r. feet has been completed. The laying of 15 inches, 12 inches, 9 inches and 8 inches sewers in Circular Garden Reach Road has been taken in hand. The inspection and survey of city sewers is being pushed on and 31 miles of sewers were surveyed during the year; more than half the total length of sewers have now been surveyed.

To give temporary and partial relief to the drainage system, the work of raising the silt and providing additional waterways to the Reflux Gate was taken in hand and completed and a small pumping station has been provided at Topsia near Point A. A great deal of repair and maintenance work has also been done to keep the drainage system of the city and the outfall in a reasonable state of efficiency. At the Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station, new pumps have been installed and two new Lancashire boilers have been provided. These have greatly facilitated the discharge of sewage at the Pumping Station.

Bustee department.

155. Sixty-one bustees comprising about 210 bustee holdings have been surveyed during the year with a view to having them improved and standard plans were prepared in respect of 55 bustees. Thirty-two bighas of bustee land were cleared of huts. About 1½ miles of roads have been opened up, and 76 connected privies and 3 bathing platforms have been constructed in various bustees. Forty-four private streets have been improved during the year as the result of action taken by the department.

Conservancy.

156. The daily average quantity of refuse dealt with was 1,328 tons and the total expenditure on street cleansing, incinerator and Municipal Railway amounted to Rs. 21,77,000.

Roads.

157. Excluding new works in connection with the construction of new roads and permanent improvement of existing roads, the total expenditure on road repairs amounted to Rs. 17,59,685. Of this, Rs. 4,35,219 was spent on new bituminous road surfacing and Rs. 2,60,104 on repairs to roads previously asphalted.

Building department.

158. The total number of applications submitted for sanction was 10,011 against 9,968 in the previous year. Sanction was given to 22·5 per cent. of the plans received in case of masonry buildings and 48·5 per cent. in case of huts. No fewer than 1,849 notices were served in respect of insecure buildings against 2,352 in the previous year. The inspection and examination of old and insecure buildings by a special staff of four building inspectors was continued and a general survey of supported and projected verandahs on all important and wider roads has been taken in hand.

Health department.

159. The total number of births registered during the year 1930 in the city including the added areas was 23,614 or 21·9 per mille as compared with 22,789 births in the previous year. This is a little higher than the birth rate of 21·1 per mille in the preceding year. The total number of deaths registered during the year for the whole city including the added areas was 31,135 or 28·9 per mille against 32,981 deaths or a death rate of 30·6 per mille in 1929. There was a fall in the rate of mortality from enteric (5 per cent.), malaria (23 per cent.), kala-azar (23 per cent), dysentery and diarrhœa (2 per cent.) and respiratory diseases (13 per cent.) as compared with the figures of the previous year. The figures for cholera, influenza and tuberculosis were 1,755, 419 and 2,756 respectively as against 2,571 deaths from cholera, 478 deaths from influenza and 2,834 deaths from tuberculosis in 1929. There was an epidemic of cholera in the city during the year under report which was, however, less severe than that of the previous year. The total number of deaths from smallpox was 1,818 with a death rate of 1·7 against 393 deaths or ·36 per mille in the previous year. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 6,203, the infantile

mortality rate being 262·8 per thousand registered births as compared with 5,913 deaths or 264·0 per thousand births of the previous year.

The lady health visitors and midwives employed by the Corporation maintained their popularity and usefulness. They delivered 6,121 cases and removed 133 difficult cases of labour to hospitals. The number of infantile deaths among babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 117. Excluding 183 still births the rate of infantile mortality within the first ten days of birth attended by the Corporation staff was 19 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality rate within the first week in the whole city was 84·2 per thousand. There were only 8 maternal deaths among the mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

160. The total number of samples of foodstuffs analysed was 6,622, of which 1,051 or 14·8 per cent. were found adulterated. Two hundred and ninety-one out of 1,017 samples of milk, 171 out of 1,674 samples of *ghee*, 24 out of 358 samples of butter, 98 out of 906 samples of sweetmeats, 336 out of 1,573 samples of mustard oil, 5 out of 35 samples of *khoa khir*, 105 out of 305 samples of invalid food, 16 out of 300 samples of tea, nil out of 300 samples of flour, 3 out of 43 samples of *channa* were found adulterated. The total number of prosecutions disposed of during the year under review was 3,430. Two thousand and sixty-four of these cases ended in conviction and the fines realised amounted to Rs. 20,318. Food inspection.

161. The total revenue derived from the municipal markets during the year under review amounted to Rs. 12,45,413 as against Rs. 12,13,283 in the preceding year, resulting in an improvement of Rs. 32,130 in the total collection. The two markets which were started, one in Lake Road and another in Park Circus, contributed Rs. 11,867 and Rs. 5,588 respectively to the total revenue during the year. The establishment of another market in Ekdalia Road is in contemplation. Markets.

162. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 10,33,421 as against Rs. 9,13,936 in the previous year. At the end of the year there were 220 Corporation free primary schools with 27,802 pupils against 214 schools and 26,560 pupils in the previous year. Of the total number of pupils on the rolls 16,217 were boys and 11,585 girls as compared with 15,472 boys and 10,998 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 5 were part-time schools and were held in the morning while 215 were day schools, the corresponding figures of the preceding year being 7 and 207 respectively. At the close of the year there were 945 teachers in all the Corporation schools of whom 614 were men and 331 women. Education department.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operation of the Calcutta Improvement Trust 1930-31.]

Improvement schemes.

163. The most important street schemes in progress during the year were the following. Extension of Chittaranjan Avenue from Beadon Street to Shambazar Street; construction of an 84 feet road from Chitpore Road to Strand Road; construction of a 60 feet road connecting Darpanarayan Tagore Street with Pathuriaghata Street; and the continuation of Lansdowne Road south to west to meet Ballygunge Avenue. Improvement Scheme No. XIIA (Park Street between Wood Street and Loudon Street) was taken over by the Corporation and Improvement Scheme No. XX (Dharamtala Street to Corporation Street) was handed over to that body during the year. In Improvement Scheme No. XXVI (Darpanarayan Tagore Street to Pathuriaghata Street) the possession of the land was obtained and engineering works commenced. The acquisition of land for the extension of Chittaranjan Avenue northwards from Beadon Street to Grey Street was in progress during the year and by March practically all the properties falling within the road line had been acquired. Alignments Nos. XLVI (widening of a portion of Maniktala Street) and XLVII (60 feet road connecting Ballygune Avenue with Southern Avenue) were sanctioned by Government during the year.

Open spaces.

164. Almost all the engineering works in the Cossipur-Chitpur open space were completed. The Bagmari Park off Bagmari Road, Maniktala, was completed during the year and two football grounds were provided.

Bridges.

165. Work on the Alipur bridge was in good progress during the year. The Maniktala, Narkeldanga and Beliaghata bridges across the Circular canal were completed and opened to traffic.

Re-housing scheme.

166. The position in regard to the re-housing schemes was the same as in the previous year. No fresh scheme was undertaken. Special facilities were however, afforded to dis-housed persons to purchase land for reinstatement purposes.

Finance.

167. It was estimated that the receipts from the sale of land would amount to Rs. 30 lakhs. The actual amount received on this account was Rs. 38¾ lakhs. The revenue from taxation fell from Rs. 22,20,500 in 1929-30 to Rs. 18,43,900 in 1930-31, the most serious decrease being in the jute tax, the receipts from which fell from Rs. 14,31,000 to Rs. 10,89,000. But this shortage was more than set off by the increased receipts from the sale of land.

Municipalities Outside Calcutta.

168. There are at present 117 municipalities in Bengal, excluding Calcutta. The only changes made in their boundaries were local variations in English Bazar and Madaripur. Number of municipalities.

169. General elections were held in 36 municipalities and aroused a fair measure of interest in most of them. It will be noticed that, though triennial elections from a common starting point should have resulted in general elections throughout the province in the same year, these are trailing out to an average year by year. The reason lies in the tendency to delay reconstitution of the board over the formalities of election and the intervention of the Civil Courts. The last Dacca Municipal Board, for instance, remained in office for over five years before reconstitution could be completed. Elections.

170. Some measure of the deliberative activity of municipal boards may be found as usual in the number of their meetings—2,426 with only 129 failures for want of a quorum. The Bansbaria Board seems to have made rather a travesty of procedure with 151 meetings for a township of 6,000 population, while on the other hand the Municipal Board of Arambagh, a town from which so many complaints about public health have been heard in the Legislative Council, met only eight times in the year to tackle its own local problems. Six other small townships also recorded less than one meeting a month. Municipal meetings.

171. When discussions about franchise are so much in the air it is always useful to get back to the actualities of the municipal population and voting strength in Bengal outside Calcutta. The total population in these towns, most of which include quasi-rural areas, was only 2,113,907 or 4·23 per cent. of the total population of the province and of this urban population only 337,380 were rate-payers. Population and rate-payers.

172. As was observed last year, in the absence of statistics of rateable value there has been no attempt to base comparisons on the proceeds per cent. of rates analogous to the "penny rate" in various towns. For instance, on a rough survey from data available, Chittagong with a population of 50,000 shows an annual rateable value (on which the percentage payable is fixed) of Rs. 10,79,000, Dacca with a population of 118,000, an annual rateable value of Rs. 21,85,000 and Burdwan with a population of 34,616, a rateable value of Rs. 9,82,000. As is only to be expected rateable values as determined by assessment are on the low side, and assessment would appear to be pitched lower in Dacca, for instance, than in Burdwan. These figures are given however rather as suggesting a new line of approach than as authoritative in results. Rates and taxes.

The average incidence of taxation per head of population in urban areas has fallen from Rs. 3-8-10 to Rs. 3-3-9. Darjeeling has regained its position at the head of this scale with incidence of Rs. 12-15-3 per head of population followed by Kurseong (Rs. 10-0-9) and Howrah (Rs. 8-13-2). Burdwan is the only other municipality in which this figure exceeds Rs. 5 and it falls as low as 8, 7 and even 4 annas in some of the rural centres which still cling to a municipal constitution.

Collections.

173. The figures of the municipal tax collected for 1930-31 show the first effect of economic depression on municipal finances in a marked decrease in total realisations. These totalled only Rs. 68·27 lakhs against Rs. 71·51 lakhs in the previous year with a percentage on current demand of 88·4 against 92·87. It would be unprofitable to pick out the townships on which the shadow has fallen first, most of them among the smaller in the province. Notwithstanding this tendency there were as usual two or three towns which in the effort to work off arrears realised more than one year's demand, and Midnapore is conspicuous with realisations of 107 per cent. on its annual demand. Naturally the total outstanding arrears increased by approximately the same figure as the fall in collections and stood at Rs. 22·48 lakhs at the end of the year. At the worst of times, and they were far from having been reached in March 1931, it would be a poor picture of municipal administration that shows in the province as a whole, one rupee of the previous year's taxes uncollected for every three in the demand for the current year, but that was already the position in the year under review.

Income and expenditure.

174. The overall figures for receipts including opening balance and expenditure were Rs. 109·9 lakhs against Rs. 132·4 lakhs and Rs. 96·75 lakhs against Rs. 117·6 lakhs in the previous year. These figures are not of much value without detailed analysis, but the fact remains that municipal expenditure outside Calcutta fell to about Rs. 4·6 per head of urban population and amounts now to considerably less than one-fourth of the total expenditure and under one-seventh of expenditure per head of urban population in the metropolis.

Education.

175. The total expenditure on education including the Government grant of Rs. 1·21 lakhs, rose from Rs. 4·8 lakhs in the preceding year to Rs. 5·15 lakhs, the expenditure on primary education showing a corresponding increase of Rs. 1,43,000. The increase in the total expenditure was most marked in Kusthia (Rs. 4,695) and this was due to the construction of a pucca building for the municipal school. There were also noticeable increases in Naihati (Rs. 2,617) and Rangpur (Rs. 1,579). The increase in

the former was due to the extension of free primary education, while that in the latter has not been explained. The expenditure fell considerably in Jalpaiguri (Rs. 3,745) and there was no expenditure under this head in the new municipality of Dum-Dum and in the small municipality of Gouripur. Twelve municipalities spent less than 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income, which is the minimum proportion a municipality is expected to spend on primary education, while the ratio was over 10 per cent. in 25 municipalities. In Berhampur, one free primary school of the Biss type was started in addition to the existing ones and another was nearing completion. The Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality, the most prospective off all the municipalities in the matter of primary education, are still trying to introduce a scheme for free and compulsory primary education for girls. The Dacca Municipality established two town girls' school and maintained three primary schools for boys under Mr. Biss' scheme, while Jhalakati paid a contribution of Rs. 1,005 towards the cost of construction of a house for the local girls' school.

Water-supply.

176. The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 11·34 lakhs against Rs. 17·75 lakhs in the previous year showing a decrease of Rs. 6·4 lakhs; but the figures for expenditure on urban water-supply vary somewhat erratically as individual projects are completed or accounted for year by year. Adjustments of this nature in Raniganj and Dacca go far to account for the decrease. The completion of the Asansol waterworks with their new system of decentralised supply to private connections was the most noticeable achievement of the year. Extension of the existing system were carried out in Dacca, Narayanganj and Chandpur, but difficulties encountered in the past with the Comilla system are reported to have had a discouraging effect in Bramanbaria in the same district, which abandoned any idea of constructing new works. The tendency of small towns to have recourse to local tube wells at least as readily as to supply by pipe-system from a central source, which was commented on last year, is still in evidence and may perhaps do something to alleviate the set-back arising from the enforced postponement of new capital projects which was recognised to be necessary shortly after the period under review.

Conservancy and drainage.

177. The total returns of expenditure on conservancy and drainage were Rs. 25·14 lakhs and Rs. 5·58 lakhs respectively, against Rs. 23·76 lakhs and Rs. 3·59 lakhs in the previous year. These figures do not however distinguish very clearly the cost of town cleansing by manual methods, capital and recurring expenditure on sewerage, and that on the ordinary surface drain. Much less do they present any opportunity for comparing the unit cost of manual cleansing between one town and another, no kind of

statistics being kept of quantities removed. It remains only to comment, and comment year by year, on the inveterate practice of meeting part of the conservancy costs out of general rates (to the amount of Rs. 5·53 lakhs or at least 25 per cent. of conservancy charges proper in the year under review) and of pocketing latrine revenues for general purpose in the few towns where they exceed requirements. Completion of drainage work at Bhatpara accounts for the marked fall under this head.

Lighting.

178. The gradual extension of electric lighting to the streets of district headquarter towns as local supply companies are formed, continues to be a feature of interest under this head. It is only too characteristic of the spirit in which municipal boards are apt to approach such improvements that two towns have introduced electric lighting without raising funds through the rate which is there for the purpose. A dispute with the Electric Supply Company has extinguished the lamps in one of them.

Public Health.

179. It is difficult to review in a few words miscellaneous activities in the field of public health of over a hundred urban authorities ranging in population from over 100,000 to below 5,000; and it should be mentioned that the narrative report of Howrah town where public health presents the biggest problem of all, comes too late for inclusion in this survey. There is the same evidence of active attention to these responsibilities in the generality of towns as in previous years. Expenditure on the statutory sanitary staff of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors remained at Rs. 1·9 lakhs. The Food Adulteration Act was on the whole energetically administered resulting, for instance, in the destruction of 176 maunds of unwholesome foodstuff in Dacca town and seventy prosecutions in Chittagong. Government however have had occasion to express disapproval of the unauthorised practice of compromising cases under this Act. Disinfections of wells and privies, especially in times of emergency, went on with varying degrees of efficiency in large towns and small. Epidemics of cholera and small-pox, the general character of which will be more appropriately dealt with in the report on Public Health, were met with the usual energy, and (whatever the general level of routine functions) Commissioners' reports agree that when these special emergencies came they were effectively encountered. Inoculation against cholera continues to make way in public favour at least in the immediate vicinity of the disease. Vaccination against small-pox is more securely established and was performed in large numbers by the vaccinators in affected towns; but a series of prosecutions in Bhatpara illustrates the steady pressure required to ensure regular vaccination of infants. *Dai* training classes were maintained in several towns with a Government grant, but

maternity welfare work is less prominent in the reports than is to be desired; and the Minister would be glad to find more extensive mention of propaganda work such as the Baby Week Exhibition and maternity clinics, which it is believed are now organised in many towns with the assistance of the Bengal Health Week Committee.

Public Works.

180. The total expenditure on public works fell from Rs. 11·4 lakhs to Rs. 10·79 lakhs, this being entirely due to a decrease of Rs. 66,000 in expenditure on roads. The roads affected are naturally for the most part local roads only of importance to the townspeople themselves, but in the 24-Parganas district the problem of the liability of individual municipalities for the maintenance of a main road carrying through traffic has assumed an entirely new prominence owing to the expansion of motor traffic.

Loans.

181. The loans statistics serve well to illustrate the petty scale of capital works and limited credit of Bengal municipalities. Thirty-six municipalities were in debt to Government at the close of the year and their total indebtedness amounted only to Rs. 23,47,830. The total borrowing during the year amounted only to Rs. 1,80,000 in loans to three towns for waterworks while three other towns paid off the balance of their loan account. The net result was a further contraction of Rs. 2·7 lakhs in total indebtedness on the figures of the previous year, and there can be little doubt that, with the inability of Government to lend and the inability of the towns to raise loans in the open market, they will continue to repay more than they borrow for the next year or two.

Audit of accounts.

182. It is perhaps not sufficiently recognised that Government provide a free annual audit for municipal accounts, and only six municipalities were omitted from the audits of the year under review. The annual report of the Examiner of Local Accounts is now published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and continues to present a somewhat depressing picture of the general level of municipal accounts and of the inattention of the boards to audit comments and criticisms. Audit disclosed financial irregularities in the towns of Chittagong, Burdwan, Jamalpur and Madaripur during the year which resulted in three cases in prosecution of the municipal staff.

General remarks.

183. There is an inevitable risk of monotony in summing up the general impression from the reports on municipalities year by year. The tides of civic progress rise slowly in the existence of a district town and, while constitutions come and go, the Bengal Municipality remains. If there is one feature on which reports are in agreement it is that an increased measure of independence in the assessing authority, however it is to be attained, is the first essential

for the proper development of these local bodies. Therein lies the distinction between district board and municipality. The latter alone enjoys the full measure of self-government which comprehends self-taxation, and too often through subservience to the pressure of rate-payer or council the assessing authority fails to exercise its functions with strictness of judgment and independence of vision. Where self-taxation fails local self-government fails, and the only remedy lies in devising a system which, while leaving the deliberative body full discretion as to the principles and scale of taxation, prevents the assessing authority from undue interference in the contentious task of valuation. The Minister hopes soon to place before Council a general measure for the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act and the opportunity will then arise of finding some solution of this difficult problem. This Bill which is based on that of 1925 with adjustments made on the advice of a Committee appointed in 1931 will deal comprehensively with the revision of the Bengal Municipal Act.

District Boards.

District and local boards.

184. The framework of district board organisation remained unchanged with 26 district boards and a membership in all of 683, of whom 429 were members elected by local boards. The Darjeeling District Board has had a nominated Chairman from its inception. The District Magistrate remained Chairman of the District Boards of Bankura, Midnapore and Mymensingh, three districts with abnormal features in the record of the past two or three years: but elsewhere Chairmen were elected. The total number of meetings was 402; but this figure is not much index of deliberative activities as so much of the district board work is done through the standing committees. The total number of local boards increased from 82 to 84 through the formation of two sanctioned in Jalpaiguri and Malda districts in the previous year, with a total membership of 1,385. They continued to function as electoral colleges for district boards and local agencies for the expenditure of delegated funds; but it is not to be assumed for this reason that they have ceased to fill a useful purpose as deliberative bodies for the subdivisional area and an intermediary between union board and district board.

Financial features.

185. The total receipts of district boards, which had already shown a marked decline in 1929-30, decreased by a further sum of 1 lakh to 1·48 crores in 1930-31. With the impending depression some decrease was inevitable, but the figures are more marked than appear, for the receipts from Government grants within this total actually rose by over 3 lakhs to Rs. 45,71,088. In the economics of local self-government, it certainly is disquieting to see district

boards deriving year by year proportionately less of their revenue from genuine local taxation and receipts and more from grants from the provincial budget, a feature which will be still more marked in the accounts for 1931-32. The total expenditure practically balanced total receipts with a decrease of 4 lakhs on the figures for the previous year.

Education.

186. The income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 21·51 lakhs and Rs. 36 lakhs against Rs. 22 lakhs and Rs. 37·5 lakhs respectively in the previous year. The receipts from Government contribution were about Rs. 21 lakhs. The expenditure on primary education alone was Rs. 29 lakhs. The number of upper and lower primary schools maintained and aided by district boards increased from 49,090 to 49,471. The number of boys and girls attending these schools was about 1,340,000 and 356,000 respectively. Primary education suffered a good deal owing to the economic difficulties during the later months of the year when district boards had perforce to withhold grants. This inability to raise funds led to the abandonment during the year of two schools, one in Midnapore and one in Faridpur, which had been sanctioned on the basis of Mr. Biss' recommendation. There would be reason to fear a real set back if it were not for the possibility that the Primary Education Act may soon be put into force in some districts at any rate. There were 51 industrial schools maintained and aided by district boards imparting instruction to some 1,900 pupils in various subjects, including carpentry, smithy wicker work, dyeing and weaving.

Public health and medical relief.

187. The outstanding feature in expenditure under this head is that as contributions from the provincial budget increase, district boards are not only failing to find proportionate additional funds themselves—with their limited resources this might be difficult—but are already tending to disregard the condition that their own expenditure on district health should not be reduced on receipt of Government grants. In 1926-27 before rural health units existed, the boards spent in all Rs. 22 lakhs on "Medical" and "Public Health," including Government grants of Rs. 3·84 lakhs or Rs. 18·16 lakhs of their own funds. In 1929-30 the boards spent on the same objects Rs. 31·7 lakhs including Government grants of Rs. 11·11 lakhs or Rs. 20·59 lakhs net. In 1930-31 the reverse tendency had begun to show itself and with Government grants of Rs. 13·87 lakhs the boards spent in all only Rs. 33·2 lakhs on "Medical" and "Public Health," these figures representing a decrease of Rs. 1·26 lakhs of their own expenditure on these objects. It is already clear that this tendency also will grow more acute in 1931-32 and it makes a new problem in defining the conditions of Government grants for these purposes.

The scheme for rural health units, to which much attention has been given in the resolutions for recent years, is now practically complete. The number of health circles corresponding to police thanas has reached the maximum of 575, though the actual expenditure on each is still a good deal short of the estimated ultimate cost of Rs. 2,000 per annum. On the whole the benefits of the scheme have come fully up to expectations, the Sanitary Inspectors providing both a local inspecting and precautionary agency in matters of public health and a mobile force within the district available for concentration on emergency measures on the occasion of a serious epidemic. Steps are being taken to define more closely the status and functions of these officers by statutory rules. The weak point of the scheme at present lies in the inadequacy of supervision, especially in the larger districts.

The record of public health for the year will be more appropriately dealt with in the resolution on public health. Increased attention to the problem of leprosy is noticed in the Bankura and Midnapore District Boards. Vaccination services continued on the usual level, but the special effort for vaccination of the whole population in four or five years has not materialised. District health authorities pushed on with cholera vaccination, especially on the occasion of epidemics; but met with little response in this task in districts not immediately affected, the figures for inoculation in Khulna for instance decreasing from 82,000 to 25,000.

Institutional medical relief was afforded by a chain of dispensaries which, with the stimulus of the grant for village thana dispensaries, now extends to almost every thana in the province. The radical problem in the provision of hospital treatment in the districts lies in fact now not so much in increasing the number of outlying dispensaries as in improving the standard of the headquarters hospital, so as to provide one really well equipped hospital in each district; and this naturally goes rather beyond the medical activities of district boards.

The tendency to divert funds available for medical relief to subsidising ayurvedic, unani and homœopathic dispensaries is still in evidence and Government would again emphasise the need for caution in this policy of enlisting this cheaper, and sometimes more popular, type of medical aid in place of the qualified licentiate.

Veterinary.

188. Two years ago district boards were relieved of expenditure of about Rs. 70,000 per annum on the purchase of serum with the idea that the amount saved would be applied to their veterinary work. Their expenditure on veterinary services promptly fell from Rs. 2,12,500 to 1,78,000 and decreased further in the year under

review to Rs. 1,67,227. Naturally in these circumstances no expansion was possible beyond the scale of work in previous years.

Civil works.

189. In last year's resolution comment was made on the continuous decrease since 1926-27 in expenditure on the unattractive but very necessary head of "Public Works." This tendency continued, and the total expenditure of Rs. 54 lakhs on Civil Works" represents a further decrease of no less than Rs. 4·5 lakhs on last year's total, with the result that the district boards in 1930-31 spent over Rs. 10 lakhs less on public works than in 1926-27, which serves usefully as a standard year. Of the total expenditure Rs. 4 lakhs were spent on buildings, Rs. 67 lakhs on water-supply and Rs. 31 lakhs on communications, the latter alone showing a decrease of Rs. 2 lakhs on last year's figures. It is all very well to blame motor traffic for the deterioration of district board roads, but the fact remains that out of a total expenditure on all heads of the budget in 1930-31 Rs. 7 lakhs in excess of that for 1926-27, the district boards spent Rs. 5·5 lakhs less than their expenditure in that year on the head of communications. Detailed scrutiny of the variations in individual boards and of the general trend of funds diverted from communications would go beyond the scope of the annual resolution, but obviously there is something fundamentally wrong in the road policy of district boards when figures like this appear simultaneously with repeated complaints about excessive wear and tear of the main roads. On the other hand, three district boards in the Rajshahi Division were able to effect an unexpected amount of earthwork on roads in the shape of famine relief.

Water-supply.

190. Expenditure on water-supply decreased from Rs. 7,59,000 to Rs. 6,73,000—a decrease of a lakh and a half—in two years which it is a little difficult to understand. The postponement of half the Government grant for water-supply from 1928-29 to 1929-30 may have contributed to erratic figures, though the grant is not paid directly to district boards. There has not been much enthusiasm for the scheme of water-supply loans with a grant in reduction of interest for which Rs. 6,00,000 was provided in the provincial budget for 1930-31: while at the same time the financial crisis which occurred in that year made it necessary to surrender the greater part of this provision and slow down the whole policy. In the present abnormal financial position both of Government and the boards it is to be feared that the scheme has received its quietus for a year or two. A good deal of activity is reported in sinking tube wells, noticeably in Jessore where 301 wells were sunk and in Mymensingh where tube-wells had fallen out of favour two or three years ago.

General remarks.

191. It is to be remembered that the year under review is that in which the financial depression first made itself acutely felt; and if the activities of a good many district boards were seriously disorganised for this reason they may well claim that their experience was much the same as that of Government itself. On the other hand, up to the end of the financial year 1930-31 Government were able to maintain the scale of annual recurring grants for education, public health and general purpose up to the standard of previous years and to meet without check the expanding liability on account of the increase of rural health units. This policy, it may be added, has been continued through the far greater financial stress of the year 1931-32.

The year was not remarkable for any administrative change in the relations between Government and district boards. Mention should, however, be made of a Conference of Chairmen of District Boards held in Darjeeling in October 1930 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Nawab K. G. M. Faroqui, Khan Bahadur, then Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government to advise on the revision of the Local Self-Government Act. A Bill based on the recommendations of this Conference has recently been introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council.

The year under review coincides with the period of the civil disobedience movement, and it is noticeable to how small an extent the ordinary functioning of district boards was affected by the political upheaval. With the exception of one or two districts the Chairmen threw their weight loyally on the side of Government; and ebullitions of hostile feeling in the shape of resolutions and adjournments were, all things considered, remarkably few, while the routine machinery and permanent staff of the boards continued to function with very little political reaction. It may fairly be claimed that in the sphere of local self-government one of the results of this abnormal year was to reveal the district boards as responsible, and self-respecting local authorities occupied with their own administrative functions and little influenced in their practical working by political and partisan forces. If not entirely immune from the wave of excitement which passed through the country, the district boards continued to play their part effectively notwithstanding it, in an atmosphere of matter of fact attention to the responsibilities of their essential position in the Local Self-Government system.

CHAPTER VII.—PRODUCTION OF THE LAND AND CO-OPERATION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year 1930-31.]

Administration.

192. The Bengal Higher Agricultural Service was created with effect from the 1st May 1930, the vacant posts of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western and Northern Circles, and Second Economic Botanist borne on the cadre of the Indian Agricultural Service being included in the cadre of that service.

Research and experiment.

193. The Provincial Agricultural Research Committee, which was constituted with effect from April 1930 and consists of six officials and one representative each from the Dacca and the Calcutta Universities, held three meetings from May 1930 to April 1931. As many as ten schemes for research in agriculture and other allied subjects, put forward by the Agricultural and Veterinary Departments and by the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca, were discussed and accepted with necessary modifications for recommendation to the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The majority of the schemes have been sanctioned and funds provided, while others await the consideration of the Imperial Council. The grants obtained from the Imperial Council helped a great way towards the initiation of long pending schemes of agricultural research. Research and experiment continued to be carried on as usual in the Fibres, Botanical and Chemical Sections at the Dacca Farm. As a result of this work an increase in the area under exotic varieties of tobacco, mostly in the Rangpur district, is reported. Noteworthy among other achievements were the increased production of farmyard manure, making nearly all farms self-supporting as regards manure, increased production of silage in farms, particularly at Dacca and Rangpur, and the successful demonstration of the value of Napier grass as the heaviest yielding fodder crop.

Agricultural education.

194. The scheme for the introduction of agricultural classes in middle English and high English schools on the Punjab lines is still in the experimental stage. Fifteen teachers passed out from

the Secondary Agricultural School, Dacca, on completion of their course in December 1930. The first batch of the teachers, who completed their course in December 1929 and returned to their respective schools, have held charge of the agricultural classes for over a year by this time. Settlement of *bhadralok* youths on accreted khas mahal land in the Faridpur district, after practical training at the Faridpur farm, continues, and two batches have received training and are engaged on the land allotted to them. It is reported that they have made a promising start.

Farms.

195. The number of private farms increased from 140 to 165, viz., 110 in West Bengal, 44 in North Bengal, and 11 in East Bengal. There is definite indication of a real demand for farming on modern lines. These farms, as well as those in Court of Wards and Government Estates, serve as centres for the dissemination of departmental races and methods.

Seed distribution.

196. During the year 240 paddy seed farms were in operation under management by co-operative societies, union boards, Government estates, agricultural associations, and private bodies. The total supply of pure paddy seed from all sources was 13,000 maunds, of which Government farms supplied 1,787 maunds. In addition to the above 6,000 maunds of departmental paddy seed were supplied to the Rajshahi district for this year's crop.

Agricultural engineering.

197. In the Agricultural Engineering Section useful work was done towards the improvement of the sugarcane crushing machinery designed by Mr. Peterson, the Agricultural Engineer. Tests with this type of crusher have shown that it has a uniform capacity of dealing with 25 to 30 maunds of cane per hour with an extraction of 70 per cent. on normal cane. An improved cane-juice boiler designed by the Agricultural Engineer has also been installed at Dacca for carrying out experimental tests. These experiments have been undertaken with the aid of the grant made by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The demand for "Sobkam" ploughs of Mr. Peterson's design is on the increase. This fact holds out prospect of the Bengal cultivators taking to iron ploughs. A Daisy Reaper purchased for the Rangpur cattle farm did good work. The "Bon Accord" thresher at the Dacca farm also worked satisfactorily.

Sericulture.

198. The Bengal Sericultural Department worked on the same lines as in previous years. Attention was paid to increasing the outturn of mulberry leaf and at the same time lowering the cost of its production. Experiments with different kinds of manures have shown that the outturn of leaf can be doubled by the

judicious application of manure. In this way it has been found possible to reduce the cost of purchasing leaf from outside sources. The substitution of expensive bush mulberry by tree mulberry also makes for reduction of expenses of production. Steps have accordingly been taken for an extension of the cultivation of tree mulberry by the distribution of saplings.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1930-31, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the season.

199. Rainfall in March was sufficient and favourable to the preparatory tillage of autumn crops and deep-water paddy in East and North Bengal. In April and May the rainfall was defective. Sowings of autumn crops made satisfactory progress in East Bengal, but were retarded for want of adequate rain in parts of North Bengal and in West Bengal. Rainfall in June was below the average in West Bengal and above the normal in East and North Bengal. Autumn crops thrived, excepting in parts of the Presidency and Rajshahi divisions, and also in certain parts of East Bengal, in which rice hispa did some damage to highland *aus* paddy. Sowing of winter rice in seedbeds was carried out under favourable conditions. Transplantation commenced before the middle of June and continued slowly until the first part of August owing to defective rainfall. Lack of rain also caused shortage of water for steeping jute in some places. Good rainfall in the latter part of August and in the first part of September facilitated transplanting of winter paddy resulting in an increased area under the crop. Seasonable showers in the latter part of September and in the first part of October materially increased the outturn in West Bengal and in parts of East Bengal, but destruction by flood was caused in Bogra and Pabna resulting in considerable local distress. During the first part of November the weather was dry and favourable for sowings and germination of spring crops, but heavy rain during the latter part of the month did some damage. Dry weather in December was favourable, but drought prolonged until the end of January and untimely heavy rainfall in the middle of February again caused damage in places. On the whole the season was satisfactory for the winter and fairly favourable for autumn and spring crops.

Area and outturn of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops.

200. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1930-31 of *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year.—

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1929-30 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1930-31 in acres.	The outturn for the year, taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre.	
				1929-30.	1930-31.
Bhadoi	9,501,200	8,896,000	9,025,000	75	81
Aghani—					
Winter rice	16,442,400	14,793,700	15,120,300	95*	100
Sugarcane	209,700	197,600	198,500	82	92
Other sugar producing plants	52,600	52,200	52,700	..	..
Rabi	4,775,400	3,893,000	4,002,300	80	82
Total ..	30,981,300	27,832,500	28,398,800	..	..

*Director's estimate.

Bhadoi crops (excepting jute).

201. The weather was generally favourable for preparatory tillage and early sowing in East Bengal. In North Bengal and in West Bengal deficient rainfall retarded sowings of autumn crops to their detriment. Subsequent conditions were uniformly favourable resulting in good outturns in important districts. The outturn of the different *bhadoi* crops of the Presidency was estimated at 81 per cent. of the normal this year as against 75 per cent. last year.

Jute.

202. During the early period, excepting in small areas of the Presidency and Rajshahi divisions where sowings were retarded by drought, weather conditions were favourable throughout the jute-growing tracts and gradual rise of rivers also helped the low-land crop. In Murshidabad, Nadia, Rajshahi and Malda districts there was marked absence of rainfall in May and early June. Sowings were therefore late in those districts and the development of the crop was below normal. In June and July rainfall in the Presidency and Burdwan divisions and also in East Bengal tended towards excess, but the growth of the crop was not seriously affected. The conditions, on the whole, were favourable. The area and outturn, excepting Cooch-Behar and Tripura States, were respectively estimated at 3,028,300 acres and 9,883,000 bales of 400 lbs. each.

Winter rice crops.

203. Until May the weather was favourable for preparatory tillage and sowing in East Bengal as well as for the growth of broadcast paddy. Preparatory tillage for transplanted paddy and sowing of seedbeds were carried on under favourable conditions. Drought in June and July, especially in parts of North Bengal, made transplantation slow. In West Bengal on the other hand good showers helped progress. Good rainfall in August and in the first part of September enabled an increased area to be transplanted. Seasonable showers in the latter part of September and in the first part of October materially increased the outturn in West Bengal and in parts of East Bengal. In November, when harvesting operations were commencing, unusual and heavy rain, accompanied with high winds, caused appreciable damage in some districts, but, on the whole, the crop was satisfactory. The average outturn for the province was estimated at 100 per cent. of the normal as against 90 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

204. The weather was generally favourable during the early period of growth, although some damage was caused by heavy rain in places. Late rain was of value in the most important districts, although some damage was caused by it in Mymensingh. Subsequent conditions were favourable for harvesting and a good average yield was obtained. The outturn for the province worked out at 92 per cent. of the normal this year as against 82 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

205. The rainfall in October, though below the average, enabled sowings generally to commence at the normal time. Dry weather during the first part of November helped germination and growth, but heavy rain during the latter part of the month caused damage in some districts. In December the weather was dry and favourable, but prolonged drought till the end of January proved somewhat injurious to early sowings. On the whole the season was fairly favourable. The outturn of the different *rabi* crops for the province worked out at 82 per cent. of the normal this year as against 80 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

206. Heavy rainfall during the planting period was not favourable to the early crop and the yield was less than normal.

The outturn of the late crop was satisfactory. The total outturn of cotton (both late and early), excepting the outturn of the Tripura State, was estimated at 16,405 bales as against 18,193 bales last year.

Area under cultivation.

207. The total cropped area is estimated to be 28,398,800 acres this year as against 27,832,500 acres last year. The figures for the principal crops are shown in the table below.

Name of crop.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1929-30 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1930-31 in acres.
Rice	22,823,700	20,224,600	20,582,000
Food grains other than rice	1,924,100	1,456,900	1,507,500
Jute	2,310,300	2,913,700	3,028,300
Oilseeds	1,350,900	1,025,300	1,086,200
Tobacco	291,000	295,400	283,900
Sugarcane	209,700	197,600	198,500

Prices.

208. There have been three successive good rice crops, but the fall in the price of rice is due to world conditions. An exceptionally heavy crop of jute, combined with the world-wide trade depression, caused a slump in the price of jute.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1930-31.]

Development.

209. Co-operative activity throughout the year was dominated by the adverse economic conditions which obtained. This rendered the adoption of a policy of caution in the matter of expansion inevitable, and the increase in the number of societies was less than one-half of the increase in the case of preceding years. The number of societies of all classes rose from 22,532 to 23,677 or by 5·08 per cent., as against an increase of 13·3 per cent. in the preceding year. The total membership rose from 750,137 to 806,567 or by 7·5 per cent. as against 6·1 per cent. in the preceding year. This is satisfactory, in that it shows that the relative accession to membership was more marked than the addition to the number of societies. The total working capital rose from Rs. 14,83 lakhs to Rs. 15,79 lakhs or by 6·4 per cent. Excluding cash which is counted more than once as a result of the treatment of the funds of the Provincial Bank, the Central Banks and the primary societies as separate funds, the actual cash employed rose from Rs. 9·68 crores to Rs. 10·59 crores or by 9·3 per cent. The great need of the moment is not further expansion, but consolidation. Attention has been diverted to the work of rehabilitation, though progress in this direction is very slow indeed. Even in ordinary times there is a natural tendency to take up something in which it is possible to show quick results in preference to the

task of reorganisation which can only be effected gradually and cannot always be exhibited in the form of statistics. The present economic depression, has, on the one hand, emphasised the need for such reform and, on the other, added to its difficulties.

Agricultural credit.

210. Agricultural credit societies naturally constitute the bulk of registered co-operative societies, comprising 85·1 per cent. of the total number, i.e., practically the same proportion as in the preceding year. The total number of these societies, including grain banks, rose from 19,198 to 20,172 or by 974 societies only as against 2,267 in the preceding year. The amount of the share capital owned by these societies rose from Rs. 47·89 lakhs to Rs. 52·51 lakhs, members' deposits from Rs. 18·82 lakhs to Rs. 21·95 lakhs, and reserve funds from Rs. 79·49 lakhs to Rs. 96·75 lakhs. With regard to the reserve fund it may be mentioned that most of it is used in the working capital and the reluctance of societies to invest their reserve funds separately continues. The total of the funds owned by the societies themselves increased from Rs. 1,46 lakhs to Rs. 1,71 lakhs or from 30 per cent. to 31·7 per cent. of the total working capital. Of the remainder as much as 65·2 per cent. of the working capital was derived as loans from Central Banks as against 67 per cent. in the preceding year. Loans advanced by these societies to their members amounted to Rs. 92·69 lakhs as against Rs. 1,60 lakhs in the preceding year. The year under review witnessed a big drop in recoveries of loans by agricultural credit societies. The total collections fell from Rs. 100·50 lakhs or 29·2 per cent. of the amount due at the beginning of the preceding year to Rs. 56·79 lakhs, or 14·1 per cent. of the amount due at the beginning of the year under report. This poor collection was due in the main to collapse in the prices of agricultural produce. In consequence of the poor collection overdues, which have been steadily on the increase since 1925-26, rose from Rs. 160·04 lakhs to Rs. 243·88 lakhs, or 56·3 per cent. of the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year under report as against 39·8 per cent. in the preceding year.

Agricultural societies other than credit: (i) Purchase and sale societies.

211. The number of societies of this class declined from 108 to 95, their membership from 31,606 to 12,935 and their total working capital from Rs. 48,26,012 to Rs. 7,13,271. The decrease was mainly due to the closing down of the jute sale societies, which, as stated in last year's report, had failed and become insolvent. Fifteen jute sale societies with the Bengal Wholesale Co-operative Society were placed under liquidation during the year, while one is under informal liquidation. The paddy sale section of the movement could not fail to be affected by the general trade depression. The price of paddy ruled unusually low and was uncertain. In spite of this the Central Paddy Sale Society worked

at a profit, though this profit was less than that of the preceding year, being Rs. 1,183 as against Rs. 3,800 in 1929-30. As stated in the last annual report, the Chetla branch of the society had proved a failure and had to be closed down. The main branch had to take over the assets and the liabilities of the Chetla branch and, in consequence of this amalgamation of accounts, the Central Paddy Sale Society showed a loss of Rs. 883 during the year. An important society classified under this head is the Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society, Limited. The total quantity of ganja and bhang sold during the year was 2,156 maunds and 26 seers and 324 maunds and 32 seers, respectively, as against 3,860 maunds and 390 maunds in the preceding year. The society realised a sum of Rs. 4,40,477 by these sales as against Rs. 7,57,828 in the preceding year. The fall in the sale of ganja was due mainly to the political movement directed against its sale as well as to economic depression. The cultivation of ganja in Bihar was also responsible to a certain extent for the fall.

(*ii*) Irrigation societies.

The number of these societies rose from 887 to 929 and their membership from 22,626 to 23,747. As many as 915 of these societies are in the Burdwan division alone and they are mostly to be found in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura, where they are generally doing useful work.

(*iii*) Co-operative agricultural associations.

There were 38 co-operative agricultural associations against 35 in the preceding year.

Production and sale societies. Milk societies.

212. The total number of milk societies rose from 242 to 264. Of these 107 societies in the 24-Parganas, 2 in Jessore, and 4 out of 5 in Hooghly, being situated near Khamargachi, are affiliated to the Calcutta Milk Union. This group of societies continued to work at a profit in spite of the slump in price. They devoted a part of their profits to local works of public utility, such as the establishment of schools and the sinking of tube wells. The milk societies situated in other parts of the province had generally to contend against heavy odds owing to the general economic depression which on the one hand reduced the price of milk and milk products and on the other hand affected the purchasing capacity of the public.

Non-agricultural credit societies.

213. The non-agricultural credit societies rose in number from 456 to 495. With a few exceptions they are organised on the basis of limited liability. The membership of these societies increased from 147,573 to 175,460, their total paid-up share capital from Rs. 58·90 lakhs to Rs. 65·64 lakhs and the total of their reserve funds from Rs. 15·90 lakhs to Rs. 17·81 lakhs. The total of the profits earned by these societies increased from Rs. 8·45 lakhs to Rs. 9·67 lakhs. Deposits from members rose from

Rs. 57·16 lakhs to Rs. 71·26 lakhs, while those from non-members from Rs. 116·32 lakhs to Rs. 126·31 lakhs. The loans obtained by these societies as a whole from the provincial and central banks amounted to Rs. 8·41 lakhs as against Rs. 6·48 lakhs in the preceding year. New loans issued by these societies to their members increased from Rs. 2·12 crores to Rs. 2·30 crores and repayments from Rs. 1·75 crores to Rs. 1·84 crores. The amount outstanding from members increased from Rs. 2·38 crores to Rs. 2·69 crores. The overdues rose slightly from Rs. 25·57 lakhs to Rs. 25·75 lakhs, but the proportion of overdues fell from over 10 per cent. to over 9 per cent. The urban credit movement has firmly established itself and is steadily gaining in strength and importance. The societies among sweepers deserve special mention for the good work they have been doing in furthering the economic interests of their members, promoting temperance among them and ameliorating their social condition generally.

Stores societies.

214. The number of societies decreased from 56 to 55, their total membership from 6,523 to 5,754 and their total sales from Rs. 3·89 lakhs to Rs. 3·83 lakhs.

Artisan societies.

215. In the Presidency division the Madhyamgram Chicon Society in the 24-Parganas ceased to function owing to increasing competition and a steady fall in the demand for its products. In the Burdwan division 4 out of 5 conchshell societies in Bankura worked at a small profit. The relation between the conchshell societies in Dacca, numbering 8 and the Dacca Industrial Union to which they are affiliated, was not friendly and the societies worked at a loss. There was little demand for conchshell articles. In the Chittagong division, attempts at the reconstitution of the Pathantooli Agrabad Rope-makers' Society are in progress. The Mirzapur Pottery Society worked at a small profit. The Pahartali Oilman's Society will have to be closed down. The Dulabari Shoemakers' Society worked at a small profit.

Weavers' societies.

216. Societies among weavers suffered from the fall in the demand for and the price of textiles. Of the Bankura group of 61 societies, which have between them a working capital of Rs. 35,150 and are affiliated to the Bankura Industrial Union, many worked at a loss. The total paid-up share capital in the union subscribed by these societies rose from Rs. 9,166 to Rs. 9,389. The Noakhali group of 34 societies under the Chowmohani Industrial Union worked fairly well during the year. The Bagerhat Weaving Union is the most important society of this class and is a cotton mill on a co-operative basis. Although the sales of the union rose in value from Rs. 33,651 to Rs. 43,251, the union experienced great difficulty in clearing its stock.

Silk societies.

217. The Bengal silk industry continued to suffer from competition with imported silk. There was also a contraction of demand and a fall in the price of silk fabrics owing to general economic depression. The total number of cocoon rearers' societies stood at the end of the year at 80 as against 86 in the preceding year. Besides, there are a number of societies among cocoon rearers in the Murshidabad district which work on a credit basis and have been classified as credit societies. Out of 80 cocoon rearers' societies 63 are in Malda. The total capital of these societies fell from Rs. 99,674 to Rs. 93,333 and the amount of profit earned by them from Rs. 2,017 to Rs. 786.

Zamindari societies.

218. There are three societies of this class in the Presidency. Of these the Bengal Young Men's Zamindary Society continued to work as before, but is endeavouring to start an agricultural training farm. The reclamation and colonisation of a part of Chakaria Sundarbans known as Badarkhali by the Chittagong Zilla Krishi Samity is in progress. In 1929-30 Block No. 1 of Badarkhali, comprising the north-western portion and an area of nearly 450 acres, was reclaimed. A society of colonists in this block was organised and registered during the year under report and these colonists have now brought the land in this area under cultivation. The reclamation work of the second block was taken up and completed in 1930-31 and the question of the organisation of a society of colonists in this block has been taken up.

Anti-malaria and public health societies.

219. The total number of registered societies of this class rose from 758 to 811 and their membership from 17,014 to 17,497. These societies have generally done much useful work within their respective areas. They have assisted considerably in fighting malaria and other preventible diseases. The Bogra Medical Association maintains a school with indoor and outdoor dispensaries. It is reported to have done much good to the poorer section of the people.

Womens' organisations.

220. The total number of these societies stood at 8 and they generally did useful work in spreading education among women of the middle class, in assisting such to take up useful handicrafts and in the profitable disposal of finished articles.

Relief societies.

221. The number of these societies increased from 30 with a membership of 6,922 and a total working capital of Rs. 1,62,728 to 39 with a membership of 10,173 and a total working capital of Rs. 2,02,899. These societies worked satisfactorily and have been instrumental in promoting thrift and fellowship on the part of their members.'

Rural reconstruction. societies.

222. The number of these societies remained at 6, but their membership increased from 185 to 235. Societies of this class which deserve mention are those organised by the Rural

Reconstruction Department of the Viswabharati at Sriniketan, which have been tabled under anti-malaria and public health societies in the statistics. They maintained their record of good work. Their activities are not confined to sanitation but extend to the improvement of agriculture and of spinning and weaving as a subsidiary occupation among cultivators. The only other society which is doing good work is the Panjiputhipara Society in Bakarganj which maintains a middle English school giving practically free education to boys of the backward and cultivating classes and training them in rural welfare work. The Darjeeling House-building Society is now mainly engaged in collecting the instalments of repayment and repaying its debts. The working of the Dacca Co-operative House-building Society is capable of improvement. The Mymensingh House-building Society commenced business during the year. One house was built and a common tank excavated. The Char Fasson Mutual Benefit and House-building Society, Limited, in Bakarganj, was organised by Mr. Donovan with a view to settling colonists in the island who would take settlement of land, build houses there and take to cultivation. They raised a share capital of Rs. 532 and borrowed Rs. 5,000 from Government and Rs. 10,000 from the Barisal Central Bank. Thirty-one houses have been built. The society has been granted *gorekati settlement* of the char land to supplement its income. A new development during the year was the registration of a society in the suburbs of Calcutta called the Calcutta Suburban Co-operative Colony, Limited. The society has secured a large plot of land in the suburbs near Dum-Dum and has commenced work. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Industrial Society, Limited, increased its share capital from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 5,025. The shares were held by 13 societies affiliated to it as against 12 in the preceding year. Trade depression affected the society and its sales fell in value from Rs. 71,062 to Rs. 58,995. The society supplied to its affiliated societies raw materials to the value of Rs. 4,27,517 as against Rs. 3,10,368 in the preceding year. The profit of the society fell from Rs. 8,265 to Rs. 2,019. The Bengal Co-operative Silk Union was started in 1927 with the avowed object of organising mulberry cultivators, cocoon reelers and silk weavers, of financing such societies and of providing them with facilities for the marketing of their finished goods. On the financing side the union restricted itself to granting credit to societies situated in the Malda district, while, as regards the disposal of finished goods, it extended its operations to the districts of Murshidabad, Birbhum and Bankura, in addition to the district of Malda. The union started a dyeing and printing section of its own. This section will enable the union to save the charges previously incurred in sending out silk pieces to

other places for printing. The union has been gradually but steadily creating a market for its finished products, but the Bengal silk yarn has so far been unable to hold its own in important weaving centres outside the province. The question of improving the reeling process with a view to turning out better and more popular yarn has been engaging the attention of the Department of Industries in consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Co-operative Societies. The union earned a profit of Rs. 7,161 during the year.

Central banks.

223. The number of central banks rose from 116 to 119. The total number of affiliated societies rose from 19,071 to 20,278 or by 6·2 per cent. and the total working capital from Rs. 455·71 lakhs to Rs. 488·69 lakhs or by 7·2 per cent. The addition to the working capital thus kept pace with the increase in the number of societies, though much of it was locked up in the shape of outstandings in the hands of affiliated societies. Deposits from individuals rose from Rs. 260·02 lakhs to Rs. 276·12 lakhs. The proportion of deposits to the total working capital fell from 57 per cent. to 56·5 per cent. The total paid-up share capital increased from Rs. 51·52 lakhs to Rs. 53·32 lakhs and the reserve and other funds from Rs. 26·51 lakhs to Rs. 30·53 lakhs. The total amount derived from these sources, viz., paid-up share capital and reserve and other funds, remained at 17·1 per cent. of the total working capital. The amount obtained by borrowing from the Provincial Bank rose from Rs. 112·76 lakhs to Rs. 122·55 lakhs. New loans advanced by the central banks to their affiliated societies during the year decreased from 234·28 lakhs to Rs. 102·74 lakhs and the total repayments by these societies from Rs. 185·80 lakhs to Rs. 90·17 lakhs, the percentage of repayment to the total loans outstanding at the beginning of the year being 23·5 per cent. as against 55·5 per cent. of the preceding year. The fall in the amount of new loans advanced is not surprising in view of the fact that a large part of the demand remained unrealised. Many central banks experienced difficulty in meeting the requirements of their affiliated societies in respect of new loans. The total profits earned by the central banks rose from Rs. 8·53 lakhs to Rs. 8·81 lakhs. These figures, however, do not distinguish between profits accrued and profits actually realised, but include much in the shape of overdue interest not realised. The cost of management increased from Rs. 6·52 lakhs to Rs. 7·11 lakhs, but the proportion of the cost of management to the total working capital remained at 1·4 per cent.

The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited.

224. The working capital rose from Rs. 184·03 lakhs to Rs. 199·65 lakhs, the share capital from Rs. 15·93 lakhs to Rs. 16·45 lakhs and the reserve fund from Rs. 2·05 lakhs to

Rs. 2·79 lakhs. The special reserve and other funds of the bank stood at Rs. 2·78 lakhs. Non-members' deposits rose from Rs. 132·65 lakhs to Rs. 146·42 lakhs and deposits by other registered societies from Rs. 30·59 lakhs to Rs. 31·11 lakhs. The Provincial Bank maintained fluid resources at the standard fixed by the Directors and rendered all possible financial assistance to the central banks affiliated to it.

The Bengal Co-operative organisation society, Limited.

225. The society continued to render assistance to the movement on the propaganda and publicity side, publishing two journals, viz., the "Bengal Co-operative Journal" in English and the "Bhandar" in Bengali and disseminating knowledge of co-operative principles and practice over the province.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1930-31.]

Royal Botanic Garden.

226. The year was a favourable one for horticultural operations, and a steady progress was maintained in the nurseries and flower beds, in the plant houses and in the open. During the year additions of new species were made to the collection of tropical and semi-tropical trees and shrubs. In the herbarium work on acquisition, identification, distribution and loan proceeded throughout the year. Notable amongst the distributed lots were 611 specimens of Himalayan plants supplied to Austria, 692 Malayan duplicates to Washington and some 1,765 sheets to Dr. Cowan at Edinburgh. Among the acquisitions were 286 duplicate specimens of South-East Asia plants received from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, and 46 duplicates of New World plants from the National Museum, Washington. Duplicates, etc., were also received from the Natal Herbarium, Botanic Gardens, Durban, Systematic Botanist, Coimbatore, and the Regius Keeper of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. A large quantity of seed of Tung Oil Plant received from Kew was distributed with the object of demonstrating the possibilities of this oil industry in India. Botanical surveys, etc., were usefully undertaken during the year. One of them was an investigation into the possibilities of the North-West as a source of Santonin. Botanical exploration of the Burma Cinchona Reserve area was also continued. Noteworthy among the garden publications are Volume XIII of the Annals, being Professor Martelli's Asiatic Palms, Coryphæ. Dr. Brühl's "Census of Indian Mosses" is also a valuable contribution.

Eden Gardens.

227. In the Eden Gardens efforts were made to improve the standard of excellence of flowering annuals. Some fifty different species of plants were introduced. Several newly laid out beds added to the decorative effect of the gardens.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

228. Considerable success was achieved in the direction of enhancing the æsthetic and horticultural value of the garden. About 7,703 seeds, 2,228 plants, 120 bulbs and 8,141 seedlings were distributed to the different botanical, horticultural and other institutions of the world. Seeds and plants were collected for His Majesty's Royal Park. One hundred and fifteen packets of seeds collected chiefly in Bhutan and in the Alpine Himalayas of Sikkim were supplied, whilst some of the plants collected were grown in baskets and prepared for the onward journey.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Chinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1930-31.]

Plantations.

229. The area under cultivation at the end of the year was 2,658 acres. Extensions comprising 120 acres were carried out during the year in both the plantations, Mungpoo and Munsong. Owing to a serious drought during the whole of the cold weather season from November to March, there were many casualties in the young cinchona blocks in both the plantations, and only the strongest plants survived. Some damage was done to the Burmiak division of the Munsong plantation by hail—leaves and even bark being stripped from the trees in one or two of the blocks. It is remarkable that in the newly opened field nurseries in the Labdah and Rungbee divisions in the Mungpoo plantation there was not a single diseased plant, whereas in a four-year old field nursery in the Mungpoo division planted with seedlings taken from the same seedbeds disease was rampant, although the precaution had been taken of completely changing the top layer of leaf soil in the beds. An interesting experiment in this connection was carried out in the Sittong division in Mungpoo, where an old field nursery, which had previously been infested with disease, was reopened after lying fallow for a period of five years, and planted with seedlings of Ledger and Succirubra from the seedbeds of both Mungpoo and Munsong. There was no trace of disease visible in the plants after they had been growing in the nursery from July to May. In Munsong the only land now available for planting is the vacant space in the existing blocks. Nursery disease was less noticeable in this plantation, and the late sowing with early removal from the nurseries is doubtless improving matters. A mycologist from Pusa visited the plantations during the year and

carried out a series of inoculations with the object of securing more data regarding the life history of the disease. A few plants that died soon after inoculation were uprooted and sent to Pusa for examination. The quantity of Bengal bark harvested in the year under report was 1,476,054 lbs. against 1,130,402 lbs. in the previous year.

Factory.

230. Altogether 1,153,954 lbs. of dried bark were used in the factory during the year, of which 983,781 lbs. were Bengal bark and the rest Java and Burma bark belonging to the Government of India. Bengal bark produced during the year 26,029 lbs. quinine sulphate, 2,826 lbs. and 76,861 boxes of quinine tablets containing between them 11,040 lbs. quinine sulphate, 609 lbs. other quinine salts, 13,451 lbs. cinchona febrifuge powder and 3,502 lbs. cinchona febrifuge in tablet form. From Java and Burma bark 5,959 lbs. of quinine sulphate and 3,266 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge were extracted for the Government of India.

Finance.

231. The total quantity of factory products sold during the year was 31,062 lbs. against 27,404 lbs. in the previous year. The total expenditure including pensionary charges was Rs. 4,08,433 and net receipts amounted to Rs. 5,95,713. This latter sum was exclusive of Rs. 4,923 from land rent, grazing fees, etc., not credited to the Cinchona Department, of Rs. 22,158 payment on account of the extraction work done for the Government of India and also of Rs. 31,515 on account of credit to the Jails Department for distribution of the cinchona products. The profit balance of the years working amounted to Rs. 2,82,667, a result that may be considered satisfactory in view of the incidence of trade depression with diminished purchasing power during the year.

General.

232. The world price of quinine has been maintained since the year 1926-27 in spite of general depression, and there is no prospect of any reduction, although the price of many other chemical products has declined. The total consumption of quinine in India is also remarkably steady at about 211,000 lbs. per annum. An interesting event of the year was the celebration of the tercentenary of the discovery of cinchona bark as a remedy.

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1931.]

Situation and area.

233. The forests of Bengal lie chiefly among the Himalayan range in the North, in the Sundarbans in the South and in the Chittagong district and the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the South-East. During the year the area of reserved forest increased from

6,465 to 6,506 square miles. The increase was in the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar divisions. The area of protected forests and the area of unclassed forest remained unaltered. Thus the total area of forest increased from 10,583 to 10,624 square miles and formed 13·83 per cent. of the total area of the Presidency against 13·77 per cent. in the previous year. In the Northern circle no new reservations were made during the year. Notifications under section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, were gazetted in the case of 45 blocks comprising an area of 52 square miles. The boundary between the Cinchona and Forest Departments, being about 19 miles in length, was finally demarcated in the Northern circle and this boundary will, in future, be maintained by the Cinchona Department. During the year 149 miles of exterior boundaries were demarcated, viz., 117 miles in the Chittagong and 32 miles in the Cox's Bazar division. The survey of the Tripura State was undertaken by the Survey of India to settle a dispute with the Tripura State about the boundary of the Maini headwater reserve in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Only triangulation was done during the year. The survey of India surveyed about 244 square miles of reserved forest in the Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong divisions on the 1 inch equal to 1 mile scale. These areas had previously been surveyed on the 4-inch scale.

Communications and buildings.

234. Owing to financial stringency, Rs. 12,000 only was spent on construction of roads and bridges against Rs. 38,740 in the previous year. The total expenditure incurred on the construction of new buildings was Rs. 25,636 against Rs. 66,000 in the previous year. The cost of repairs to buildings was Rs. 47,011 against Rs. 55,733 in 1929-30.

Working plans.

235. The fourth working plan of the Jalpaiguri division, which was under printing in the previous year, was sanctioned by Government towards the close of the year. The working plans for the Darjeeling and Buxa divisions were under printing during the year. The plan of the Kurseong division was finally drafted and was ready for printing. The revised working plan for the forests of the Sundarbans division was submitted to Government after the close of the year.

Silviculture.

236. The area taken up for regeneratiaon by natural and artificial methods still falls short of the prescriptions in the working plans. This is due to (*a*) shortage of funds, (*b*) fall in market demand reducing the clear falled areas, and (*c*) want of roads or mechanical methods of extraction.

Utilisation.

237. Departmental operations were carried out in the Kurseong and Jalpaiguri divisions on a smaller scale than usual owing to the dullness of the market and lack of demand. Buxa

division showed improvement. The timber extracted departmentally amounted to 16·8 per cent. of the total outturn against 9·1 per cent. in the previous year owing to larger supply of sleepers to railways. These divisions continued to supply sleepers to the Sleeper Control Officer, Eastern Group. The total quantity of sal logs dealt with in the Band Sawmill at Siliguri, which has been working since 1926, was larger than that in 1929-30. The cost of saving per cubic foot of sawn timber was lower as compared with that of the previous year. But, as the total yield was smaller, the gross revenue collected on the mill account was Rs. 67,738 against Rs. 1,10,759 in the previous year. The profit on the year's working was Rs. 6,378 against Rs. 15,438 in 1929-30. The decrease in revenue and also in net profit was partly due to lack of demand in consequence of the general depression in trade. The Jalpaiguri Timber and Lead Mills Company, Limited, which had been granted lease of forest lands for extraction of timber at concession rates, ceased to work, and sold their plants and machinery, except the plant for supply of water, to a private firm. The amount outstanding against them (Rs. 11,565) was realised during the year. After the close of the year Government purchased from the company for Rs. 5,000 the waterworks plant and machinery to ensure supply of good water to the Forest Department staff at Rajabhatkhawa. This resulted in a saving of Rs. 1,800 per annum, which was payable to the company as rent for the supply of water to the staff. The Kasalong reserve in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was open to the public for the extraction of bamboos. As the royalty realised was less than the minimum royalty of Rs. 10,000 payable by the India Paper Pulp Company, Limited, in accordance with the terms of the supplementary agreement executed by them with Government they had to pay the difference to make up the minimum.

Natural calamities.

238. A cyclone passed over the eastern half of the Jalpaiguri division and caused considerable damage to the forest. Several small landslips occurred in the hills in the Northern circle. These are attributed to the loosening of rocks by the earthquake of 3rd July 1930.

Financial results.

239. There was a further fall in the outturn of different kinds of forest produce. The revenue, expenditure and surplus decreased during the year compared with the previous year, as shown below:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1929-30	30,52,078	16,64,606	13,87,472
1930-31	23,12,049	15,93,037	7,19,012

All divisions except Darjeeling, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar showed decrease. The decrease was mainly due to the prevailing economic distress and world-wide trade depression. The decrease in the total capital and ordinary expenditure was due to the curtailment of expenditure on account of the financial position of the Presidency.

General.

240. The total value of the sales of forest produce during the year amounted to Rs. 18,07,827 against Rs. 21,40,228 in the previous year, showing a decrease in sale of over Rs. 3,32,000. The value of forest produce granted free of royalty was Rs. 55,317 against Rs. 56,000 of the previous year. These grants were made in accordance with the orders issued during the year laying down the purposes for which Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers are authorised to grant forest produce free of royalty. Minor forest produce continued to be disposed of under permits at schedule rates. The total revenue from this source amounted to Rs. 5,59,110 against Rs. 5,36,237 in the previous year, showing an increase in revenue of Rs. 23,000. Two rhinoceros horns were collected in the Buxa division but could not be disposed of during the year. Certain quantities of *ritha* (*Sapindus emarginatus*), *amlaki* (*Albizzia stipulata*), *bahera* (*Terminalia belerica*) *and haritak* (*Terminalia citrina*) were collected in the same division during the year as an experiment with a view to creating a market for them. The total number of elephants on the stock list in the two circles at the close of the year was the same as in the previous year, viz., 27 and included three calves. In the Northern circle, four men were killed by tigers and other wild animals. In addition one man was badly mauled by a bear and a forest guard was seriously wounded by a boar. In the Sundarbans division of the Southern Circle eight men were killed by tigers, as compared with four in 1929-30, and one was killed by a crocodile. Rogue elephants killed six men, tigers five and a bison one in other divisions. Five elephants were reported to have been killed illicitly in the Cox's Bazar division. Rs. 400 was paid in rewards for killing three tigers. Rs. 415 was also paid in rewards by the Collectors of the 24-Parganas and Khulna for killing tigers and leopards outside the Sundarbans forest division. The number of permits issued for shooting deer in the Sundarbans rose from 157 in 1929-30 to 161 during the year. The cost of maintaining launches and flats in the same division rose from Rs. 52,630 in 1929-30 to Rs. 55,005 in the year under review.

CHAPTER VIII.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Industries Department.

[Report on the Administration of the Industries Department for the year 1930-31.]

General.

241. Owing to financial stringency many new schemes of development had to be curtailed or abandoned, whilst the work of demonstrating the results obtained in the chemical and engineering sections was restricted. The world-wide trade depression resulted in an abnormal fall in the price level of commodities attended with a shrinkage in demand. The circumstances, therefore, were far from encouraging industrial enterprise.

Research and demonstration: (a) Chemical section.

242. The research work in the chemical section was mainly concerned with the utilisation of certain indigenous oils such as Punnal oil (*Calophyllum Inophyllum*), Rayna oil (*Amoora Rohituka*), Karanja oil (*Pongamia Glabra*), Kusum oil (*Schlechera Trijuga*), Neem oil (*Melia Azadirachta* or Margosa oil) and Bheranda oil (*Jatropha Curcas*) for industrial purposes. Bulletins for the use of some of the oils in soap-making, etc., have been published. Experiments were also carried on in connection with the manufacture of soap. Demonstrations of soap manufacture were held in the Kurigram subdivision of the Rangpur district and in Malda and Noakhali towns. A number of apprentices were also trained at the Industrial Research Laboratory. Some of these took up work in soap factories.

(b) Engineering section.

In the engineering section the development and improvement of cottage craft and small industries engaged special attention. The main lines of work are the collection of industrial and commercial information, survey of small and cottage industries, designing and construction of labour saving devices, and demonstration of improved methods. The work in this section was handicapped by lack of funds, but certain experiments for the improvement of the indigenous cutlery industry and for evolving improved methods for the artificial drying of paddy were carried out and satisfactory results were obtained.

Bengal Tanning Institute.

243. In spite of the gloomy outlook of the leather trade, the low price of hides proved an incentive to small tanners and the Calcutta tanneries had a large share in the manufacture of cheap

leather. The investigations carried on at the Bengal Tanning Institute and the technical knowledge in tanning processes disseminated by the Institute were of great assistance to the industry. The training of apprentices at the Institute in modern methods of tanning also received attention. The effort made in the previous year to train a limited number of apprentices in the boot, shoe and leather goods trade was further consolidated. Of the first batch of seven students who completed the course during the year five passed the examination. Two of them started business of their own. Demonstrations of improved methods of tanning held in different parts of the province gave an incentive to young men to start small scale tanneries.

Technical education.

244. Technical education in all its branches including weaving continued to receive attention. Work in the various technical schools and institutions proceeded on normal lines. The Calcutta Technical School and the Kanchrapara Technical School continued to do useful work. The Central Weaving Institute at Serampore as well as the outlying district and peripatetic weaving schools continued to consolidate the efforts made to introduce weaving as a subsidiary industry. As state technical scholarship for a course of theoretical and practical training in waterproofing of fabrics was awarded during the year.

Manufacture and Mines.

Jute.

245. The area under jute cultivation during the year 1930-31, including that in the Cooch Behar and Tripura States, showed an increase, viz., 3,062,300 acres against 3,020,365 (revised) in the previous year. The total outturn was 9,966,000 bales against 9,264,200 (revised) in the preceding year. The acreage and outturn were slightly less than in 1926-27, which recorded the highest figures since 1921-22. Owing to lower prices the value of the crop was the lowest since 1921-22. Although the number of jute mills at work during the year rose from 89 to 91, the number of operatives employed on an average fell from 333,015 to 293,387, whereas the number of looms and spindles at work was 62,647 and 1,233,889, respectively, against 52,369 and 1,107,663, respectively, in 1929-30. The authorised capital in rupees, sterling and dollars reported by 86 mills was Rs. 22,93,82,000, £3,175,000 and $12,000,000. Five mills, being either proprietary or private concerns, did not disclose their capital.

Cotton.

246. Thirteen cotton mills were at work during the year 1930-31, employing on an average 17,920 operatives, as against twelve mills with 16,163 operatives in 1929-30. In spite of this

increase, however, while the number of looms at work rose from 4,340 to 4,819, the number of spindles worked showed a decrease from 368,608 to 340,004.

Silk.

247. As in the two preceding years, there were two silk mills coming under the operation of the Indian Factories Act. The daily number of operatives employed during the year 1930-31 was on an average 472 as against 430 in the preceding year. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 48,115 kahans, 24,284 kahans being raised by Government nurseries and 23,831 kahans by private agencies under Government supervision.

Sugar.

248. The acreage under sugar crops showed a further increase during the year from 256,900 (revised) in 1929-30 to 262,300 in 1930-31. Two small sugar-grinding mills, employing on an average 31 operatives daily, were under the operation of the Indian Factories Act, 1911.

Tea.

249. The area under tea cultivation, including that in the Tripura State, which in 1921 covered 182,200 acres, has increased annually to 207,783 acres in 1930. The largest quantity of tea manufactured since 1921 was in 1929, viz., 111,355 lbs., which was closely followed by the quantity manufactured during 1930. The number of tea plantations totalled 397, employing on an average 188,185 permanent and 9,795 temporary hands daily. The number of tea factories under the operation of the Indian Factories Act during the year was 288, employing on an average 16,931 persons daily, excluding those employed on the gardens outside the factory premises.

Paper.

250. The number of paper mills at work during the year 1930-31 was the same as in the preceding year, viz., three. The average number of daily employees declined from 4,316 to 4,230, but production rose from 27,526 tons to 28,421 tons, although the approximate value of the paper produced declined from Rs. 1,28,82,600 to Rs. 1,28,02,750.

Wool.

251. As in the previous years, the Dacca Central Jail Woollen Mill (10 looms and 288 spindles) was at work during the year 1930-31. This mill employed on an average 134 persons daily and produced 141,869 lbs. of blankets valued approximately at Rs. 1,28,569.

Coal.

252. During the year 1930 the number of coal mines working under the Indian Mines Act was the same as in the previous year, viz., 208. The daily average number of persons employed in these mines rose to 46,592 from 44,303 in 1929. The total output of coal raised during the year increased from 5,965,104 tons to 6,316,528 tons. This is the largest production of coal since 1921, when the

number of mines worked was 268 and the number of persons employed was 45,813. The supply of labour was ample except, as usual, during the ploughing and reaping seasons. The rates of wages were much the same as in the previous year. The number of coal mines using electric power during the year was 50 against 51 in 1929. The number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 23 and 10,946 against 20 and 9,436 respectively during the preceding year. The number of women employed underground was 6,128 or 19·6 per cent. of the total number of persons employed underground, against 26 per cent. permissible since 1st July 1930 under the regulations for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines. The year commenced with better prospects for the industry, but the general trade depression gradually affected it. Shipments to consuming centres in India fell considerably and there was a steady decline in the exports to markets outside India. Owing to the heavy fall in the Chinese exchange and the abandonment of the boycott of Japanese coal, a severe setback in the Hongkong coal market was experienced. The Coal Grading Board continued its excellent work throughout the year. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee, which was constituted under the Indian Soft Coke Cess Act, 1929, started operations in July 1930.

Saltpetre.

253. As in the previous year there was only one licensed saltpetre refinery at work in 1930-31. The refinery produced 76 maunds of refined saltpetre against 23 maunds in the previous year. No pure salt was educed in the process of refinement. The quantity of impure salt produced was 108 maunds during the year under report. This quantity, together with the balance in stock of the previous year, was destroyed as there was no sale for the impure salt.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

General.

254. During the year 1930-31 no new industry of importance was started in the province. The existing industries suffered from the depression.

Burdwan division.

255. In the Birbhum district the number of rice mills rose from 40 to 47, but the new mills were handicapped by the continued fall in the price of hulled rice. The same conditions prevailed in the Midnapore, Hooghly and Bankura districts. The demand for swadeshi cloth, on the other hand, gave a stimulus to the textile cotton mill industry in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district.

256. The weaving industry in the town of Santipur in the Nadia district, which is famous for its finely woven and embroidered *saries*, suffered a serious setback owing to the boycott of textiles manufactured with imported yarn of foreign origin. Presidency division.

257. Some improvement in the weaving industry was reported, particularly in the Kishoreganj subdivision of the Mymensingh district, as a result of the activities of the textile section of the Industries Department. Of the two ice factories established in the Faridpur district to meet the local demand for ice for the fish trade one only has so far attained some degree of success. Dacca division.

258. The hand-loom weaving industry continues to be the important cottage industry in this division. A small tannery has been started at Comilla but it has not yet shown signs of progress. Chittagong division.

259. The weaving school established by Kazi Emdadul Huq, M.L.C., at Bhogdanga in the Kurigram subdivision of the Rangpur district created local interest in the weaving industry. The *eri* silk rearing industry in the Bogra district showed signs of thriving. Rice and hosiery mills generally and the brass and bell metal industries in the Malda district suffered owing to the economic depression. Rajshahi division.

Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

260. One hundred factories were added to and 27 factories were removed from the register during the year 1930. The number of factories increased from 1,482 in 1929 to 1,555 at the close of 1930. The number of operatives employed in these factories, however, decreased from 589,860 in 1929 to 563,877. Jute mills, jute presses, general engineering works, shipbuilding and engineering works and iron and steel smelting and rolling mills accounted mainly for the decrease in the number of persons employed during the year. The average daily number of women employed was 73,951, against 77,966 in 1929, or a decrease of 4,015. There was also a big decrease in the number of children employed, which was 16,630, compared with 23,036 in 1929. This decrease was mainly due to the policy of certain jute mill managers to eliminate child labour. Two hundred and thirty factories were inspected more than three times, 114 three times, 236 twice and 707 once. One hundred and fifty-five factories situated in outlying districts could not be inspected during the year owing to the surrender of a substantial amount of the Inspectors' budget grant for travelling allowance. Two thousand nine hundred and eighty-two visits to Statistics.

registered factories and 123 visits to unregistered factories were made by the whole-time Inspectors of the Factory Department. The District Magistrates of Murshidabad, Bakarganj, Jessore, Noakhali and Dinajpur also inspected factories within their respective jurisdictions.

Sanitation.

261. The close attention given to sanitary conditions and to cleanliness has led to some general improvement. In newer and larger factories the sanitary conditions are, as a rule, good, but in the smaller and older factories improvements are difficult to enforce, especially in times of trade depression. In many small factories, especially in the district of Howrah, little improvement can be effected by the Factory Department until the municipal authorities improve the drainage and conservancy services. Special attention was paid to septic tank latrines in factories by the Public Health Department, but the outstanding advance in sanitation was the successful introduction of the new Willas Aerobic septic tank.

Health.

262. The general health of factory operatives was normal. There were sporadic outbreaks of malaria, cholera and smallpox but, on the whole, the general health conditions were good.

Wages.

263. Wages generally were either stationary or decreased slightly owing to trade depression. In jute mills, which reverted from the 60-hour to the 54-hour work per week with effect from July 1930, the earnings of the workers decreased slightly, although the rates per hour for time-workers and the piece-work rates showed an increase in both single and multiple shift mills. In the engineering industry the average rates of wages showed an increase despite the generally poor conditions of the industry. In cotton mills and rope works wages decreased slightly, while they remained stationary in rice and oil mills and in most other industries.

Welfare work.

264. Voluntary welfare work continued to progress in spite of industrial depression. In addition to extensions to housing for industrial workers, the year saw several new departures, particularly the initiation of maternity benefit schemes in jute mills, and the decision of the Indian Jute Mills Association to establish welfare centres, baby clinics and creches in mills within the membership of the Association. A committee composed of prominent medical men, welfare workers and an officer from the factory inspection department was formed in 1929 to consider this question. This committee recommended to the Association that a qualified person should undertake a survey of the area to be covered by the scheme and to report on the most suitable method of carrying it out. This work was undertaken during the year.

Safety.

265. Close attention continued to be paid to the subject of safety in factories. Although the general standard of protection continues to improve, much still remains to be done. An important series of conferences were held during the year between the Factory Department and the Indian Jute Mills Association for the purpose of standardising guards and safety devices for jute mill machinery. The negotiations, which were concluded just after the close of the year, represent a considerable advance in the application of safety methods by the department.

Accidents.

266. There was a considerable decrease in the number of accidents reported; the number fell from 4,540 in 1929 to 4,182 in 1930. This was mainly due to shorter working hours and general slackness in trade. Increased supervision by the Factory Department has also had effect.

Prosecutions.

267. The number of prosecutions increased from 171 in 1929 to 286 during the year. The increase was due principally to special efforts made by the department to enforce the employment provisions of the Act in the smaller factories in the Howrah area. The percentage of convictions was considerably higher than in the previous year.

Labour Disputes.

268. The number of trade disputes in the year 1930-31 involving stoppages of work was 41 as compared with 44 in the previous year. The number of workmen involved was approximately 76,078 as against 348,800 in the year 1929-30. The aggregate economic loss in working days was 642,426 as compared with 3,980,342 in the previous year. Jute mills and presses account for more than 50 per cent. of the total number of disputes, for approximately 78 per cent. of the number of workmen involved and for approximately the same proportion of the total loss. This was due to the incidence in the year of a fairly general dispute in the jute mill industry in Bengal, occasioned by a change in the system of shifts introduced by the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, and a consequent change in the weekly hours of work. Fourteen of the disputes were occasioned by demands for higher wages or by other questions relating to wages and their payment, 17 arose over details of leave and hours of work, 9 over questions of discharge or dismissal and other similar disciplinary action and one over a miscellaneous issue. Of the 41 disputes in the year 2 had begun in the previous year and all but 12 ended during the year, 7 were settled in favour of the workers either wholly or in part and 20 against them, while in the remaining 2 cases work was resumed either as the result of a compromise or pending negotiations.

Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

269. During the year 1930-31 six trade unions were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, thus making a total of 25 registered trade unions as against 19 in the previous year. The two unions against which notice under section 10 of the Act was issued in the previous year, for their failure to comply with the provisions of section 28, eventually submitted their annual returns, and further action against them was stayed. One of the 25 registered trade unions sent in a notice of voluntary dissolution, and 3, including one of the two previous year's defaulters, failed to submit the annual return prescribed under the Act. The membership of the remaining 21 unions at the close of the year was 73,956, comprising 73,395 men and 561 women. The balance at the credit of the general funds of 20 of them was Rs. 41,148-1-11 and one had a deficit balance of Rs. 157-2-9.

Steam Boiler Commission, Bengal.

270. During the year 1930 it was decided that the annual report of the Boiler Commission should cover the financial year instead of the calendar year, and the present chapter is the annual report on the working of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (V of 1923), in Bengal for the period of fifteen months from January 1930 to March 1931. During this period the Commission held one special and sixteen ordinary meetings for the transaction of business. The total number of boilers on the register was 4,727, out of which 265 were struck off the registers during the period under review. The staff inspected and granted certificates in respect of 3,729 boilers. Five hundred and seventy-seven boilers were found defective during the period under review, and repairs to them were recommended. Fifteen boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. Applications for inspection in respect of 724 boilers were not received and 245 boilers were out of use. The total receipts during the period under review on account of fees for inspection of boilers amounted to Rs. 3,92,298, out of which Rs. 2,11,748 related to Bengal. The total expenditure during the period amounted to Rs. 3,48,339, out of which Rs. 1,84,876 related to Bengal. The figures representing the total receipts and expenditure during the previous year (January to December 1929) were Rs. 3,09,992 and Rs. 2,76,381 respectively, out of which Rs. 1,69,333 on account of fee-receipts and Rs. 1,47,456 on account of expenditure related to Bengal. Six prosecutions were instituted during the period, all of which ended in conviction. Six accidents of a serious nature were reported which resulted in the death of four persons and injury to one.

Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

271. The Commission held 12 meetings during the year 1930. Steady progress in the removal of smoke from the air of Calcutta and its immediate environments was made. During the year under review a 27 per cent. reduction of daily black smoke was brought about by the efforts of the Commission. The success achieved in the abatement of the smoke nuisance and in aiding rice-husking mills and brickfields was all the more satisfactory in view of the fact that it was achieved during a period of abnormal trade depression. The measure of the service done may be judged from the fact that, while in 1906 the daily emission of black smoke was about 200,000 minutes, at the end of 1930 it had dropped to 2,000 minutes. The average emission from each factory chimney during the previous year was the equivalent of ·3 minutes of dense black smoke per hour. During the year under report the average was reduced to ·18 minutes, which is by far the lowest figure recorded. The inspections and tests made for educational purposes rose from 8,023 to 9,135. Statutory warnings were served in six cases as against seven in the previous year and 4,217 offences were reported to the owners for their departmental action. Out of the 49 plans of new installations examined by the Commission 48 were approved. Fifty-six complaints were received against 70 for last year and 3 in 1906. The installation of 828 motors equivalent to 11,216 H.P. within the system of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, and the fitting by the Oriental Gas Company of 1,309 gas appliances for domestic and industrial use contributed to the reduction of atmospheric pollution.

Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923).

General.

272. During the year 1930 there was a slight increase in claims instituted and in agreements registered. There was, however, a slight decrease in compensation deposited, the total amount being about 15 per cent. less than the preceding year. This may primarily be ascribed to reduced working in jute mills. There was a fall in the number of voluntary deposits in cases of fatal accidents. The amending Act had the effect of tightening up several sections in the interest of the workmen. As in the previous year, considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the notice for recording memoranda of agreement served on workmen, although employers were generally willing to take advantage of the protection offered by section 28 (*1*) of the Act. An employer is not protected until the agreement is registered by the Commissioner and to ensure this either the workman should be produced before the

Commissioner or the correct address of the workman supplied to enable the Commissioner to have the statutory notice served on him.

Statistics.

273. Statistical returns were received from 1,490 employers out of a total number of 1,642 registered concerns. Some of these were received through the Calcutta Claims Bureau. The total number of accidents for which compensation was paid by these employers during the year was 3,210 as against 3,064 in the previous year. Of these 100 ended fatally, 356 in permanent disablement and 2,754 in temporary disablement. The amounts of compensation paid were Rs. 61,194 for fatal accidents, Rs. 85,042 for permanent disablement and Rs. 46,835 for temporary disablement, as against Rs. 1,06,285, Rs. 73,811 and Rs. 40,825, respectively, paid in 1929. During the year under review 121 applications were filed under section 10, the section under which the application for compensation is made when the employer has refused or has omitted to pay. Of these 29 were for compensation for death, 84 for permanent disablement and 8 for temporary disablement. The total number of contested applications rose from 117 in 1929 to 140 in 1930. Of these 9 were withdrawn, 4 dismissed for non-appearance, 2 summarily dismissed under Rule 21, 35 admitted by the opposite party, 46 allowed in full or in part after contest and 25 were dismissed after contest. The total sum received in deposits during the year was Rs. 2,11,499-6-4 as against Rs. 2,50,655-8 during 1929 and Rs. 1,49,873-8-4 in 1928. This included deposits for fatal accidents for which deposit is compulsory as well as deposits for permanent disablement of women or minors, and voluntary deposits for permanent disablement of adult men, mostly by railway companies which always pay lump sum compensation through the Commissioner. When deposits are received for injured workmen or for dependants residing in other provinces the cases are for convenience transferred to the local Commissioner. During the year 30 distribution cases and 4 deposits for injured workmen were so transferred and 13 distribution cases were received by transfer to be dealt with here. When the amount of compensation is agreed on between the parties a memorandum of agreement must be registered for all lump sum payments and, if the worker is a woman or a minor, for all payments. During the year under report 277 agreements were filed, 242 in respect of permanent disablement and 35 in respect of temporary disablement. Twenty-two applications had been pending at the commencement of the year. Of these 299 agreements 249 were registered as they were filed and 13 after modification. In 13 cases notices could not be served on workmen and the agreements had to be filed. During

the year under review the Commissioner made 228 awards. These included awards in applications filed under section 10 and awards in proceedings for distribution of money deposited under section 8 (*1*) among dependants. All the awards were made in respect of accidents to adults, 165 of which resulted in death, 55 in permanent disablement and 8 in temporary disablement.

274. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 17,655-6 in the Commissioner's hands. The total deposits during the year amounted to Rs. 2,11,499-6-4 as against Rs. 2,50,655-8 in 1929 and Rs. 1,49,873-8-4 in 1928. Of the disposable total of Rs. 2,29,154-12-4, Rs. 1,99,721-12-4 was disposed of during the year. Of the amount awarded Rs. 46,606-9-10 was invested in Post Office Cash Certificates and in the Post Office Savings Bank during the year. There were 125 accounts current at the Savings Bank in the names of women and minors when the year opened and 163 when it closed. At the end of the year there was a balance of Rs. 29,433 in the Imperial Bank of India, Calcutta. Finance.

Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Allied Acts.

[Annual report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, on the working of the Indian Companies Act and Allied Acts for 1930-31.]

275. The number of companies limited by shares in operation at the close of the year was 4,143 with a total authorised capital of Rs. 3,86,30,93,532 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,25,14,78,935 compared with 3,899 companies with an authorised capital of Rs. 3,78,12,52,832 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,23,46,48,891 on the 31st March 1930. Three hundred and twenty-one new companies and societies, being 85 less than in the previous year, were registered. This drop is attributed partly to serious trade depression and partly to the panic and dislocation of business which ensued as a result of the communal troubles in Dacca and in other parts of East Bengal. Of the new companies 299 were limited by shares and 4 by guarantee. Eighteen companies representing social, philanthropic and charitable objects were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Four hundred and sixty-eight companies increased while 18 companies reduced their capital compared with 620 and 42, respectively, in 1929-30. Fifty-five companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct against 50 in the previous year. Sixty-seven companies went into liquidation during the year but were not finally wound up. Two hundred and fifty-nine prosecutions were instituted during the year and 59 were pending from the previous year. Of these 244 ended in conviction, 3 were Statistics.

withdrawn, 46 were filed and in 25 cases the persons charged were acquitted. The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources amounted to Rs. 98,389-14 as compared with Rs. 1,00,448-3 in the preceding year.

Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912).

276. Sixty new Provident Insurance societies were registered under the Act during the year, thereby increasing the total number of such societies to 82. This remarkable increase would appear to indicate a revival after a long period of quiescence. It is to be hoped that past experience of wholesale failure or closure of such societies will not be repeated. During the year one permanent unrestricted auditor's certificate was granted to a holder of the Government Diploma in Accountancy under the provisions of section 144 of the Indian Companies Act. Five temporary restricted auditor's certificates which expired during the year were renewed. The register of certified auditors showed 45 certificate-holders at the close of the year. Of these 30 auditors held unrestricted permanent certificates, 2 held permanent certificates restricted to Bengal only and 13 restricted temporary certificates.

Trade.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1930-31].

Trade position.

277. The economic depression which swept over the world during the whole of last year had a disastrous effect on the trade of Bengal during the year under report. The level reached was the lowest for several years past. Political unrest, as well as the general fall in commodity prices helped to aggravate the slump.

The total aggregate value of the sea-borne trade of Bengal (excluding treasure) with foreign countries and Indian ports showed a decrease by Rs. 86·44 crores; the total value realised was Rs. 1,72·13 crores as against Rs. 2,58·57 crores in the year 1929-30. This decline is to be attributed mainly to the setback which Bengal experienced in her trade with foreign countries. As a natural consequence, the tonnage handled by the Port Commissioners was less than in the previous year by about 22 lakhs.

In foreign trade, which recorded the heaviest declines, the total reached only Rs. 1,40·40 crores against Rs. 2,20·79 crores in the previous year. This was due to the value of imports receding

from Rs. 86·20 crores to Rs. 52·94 crores, and that of exports from Rs. 1,34·58 crores to Rs. 87·46 crores. This contraction in the value under both these heads—imports and exports—was the result of less transaction of business under all the principal items of merchandise, the most noticeable of which, on the import side, were cotton piecegoods, metals and ores, machinery and mill work, sugar and grain, pulse and flour, and, on the export side, tea, lac, raw hides and skins, metals and ores, raw jute, and jute manufactures; the last two items were, between them, responsible for about Rs. 33 crores. The only items of any importance which showed improved business were boots and shoes, dyeing and tanning substances, and silk goods on the import side, and manures, paraffin wax, and tea waste on the export side.

The loss which Bengal sustained in her foreign trade was more or less shared by all the foreign countries trading with her, in the same proportion as their normal share of trade. A noticeable feature was that the share of the United Kingdom in the import trade declined by 7 per cent., from 50 to 43 per cent. This loss was somewhat compensated for by a gain of 3 per cent. in the export trade, which aggregated 28 per cent. against 25 per cent. in the previous year.

The coasting trade of Bengal fared no better; it also showed a considerable decline, though not to the same extent as the foreign trade. The total value realised under this head was Rs. 31,72 lakhs, which fell short of last year's total by Rs. 6,05 lakhs. This was mainly due to heavy shrinkage in her general trade with Burma, which was about Rs. 5 crores off the last year's total. The trade with Bombay and the coastal non-British ports also contracted by about a crore of rupees each.

278. Exchange opened in April at 1*s.* $5\frac{13}{16}d.$ and remained steady at that level until May, when it weakened falling to 1*s.* $5\frac{3}{4}d.$ in July. At this time the civil disobedience movement was in full swing and business was seriously dislocated by political disturbances. In October there was a slight change for the better and the rate steadied up to 1*s.* $5\frac{13}{16}d.$ in November on account of the seasonal demand for money. The rapid fall in world commodity prices, however, coupled with nervousness as to the political future of India, led to a serious falling away, and the Government of India had to sell £5,650,000 to maintain exchange at the statutory rate of 1*s.* $5\frac{49}{64}d.$ A reaction, however, occurred in March and the rate had risen to 1*s.* $5\frac{7}{8}d.$ at the end of the year. Exchange.

279. The following table shows the comparative importance of the principal articles in the import trade of Calcutta. (Articles Imports of merchandise.

which form less than ·50 per cent. of the total imports have been omitted from the list.)

	1929-30.	1930-31.	Percentage of proportion to total imports of merchandise.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Cotton goods	23,13,89,257	8,65,07,899	17·35
Machinery and millwork	6,69,29,122	5,30,72,773	10·64
Metals and ores	9,02,83,899	5,10,34,172	10·24
Sugar	5,79,23,741	3,92,26,524	7·87
Oils	4,18,37,236	3,41,63,308	6·85
Instruments, apparatus and appliances ..	2,27,69,524	1,95,68,518	3·92
Spices	1,70,76,280	1,32,61,539	2·66
Motor cars, motor cycles, wagons, etc. and parts thereof.	1,62,93,880	1,14,25,539	2·29
Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplatedware	1,72,10,721	1,13,93,423	2·29
Provisions and oilman's stores	1,30,45,060	1,13,03,380	2·27
Grains, pulse and flour	2,63,37,565	1,00,95,521	2·02
Chemicals and chemical preparations	1,15,32,616	1,00,70,929	2·02
Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits	1,11,09,576	93,25,262	1·87
Postal articles not specified	1,04,50,667	91,36,360	1·83
Paper and pasteboard	1,21,19,205	87,19,375	1·75
Salt	95,15,072	82,04,755	1·65
Carriages and wagons and parts for railways ..	95,42,623	72,67,280	1·46
Drugs and medicines (excluding chemicals and narcotics).	77,69,295	66,06,805	1·33
Woollen goods	84,01,918	56,08,050	1·12
Tobacco	1,20,96,131	53,44,619	1·07
Rubber	65,81,601	49,95,293	1·00
Glass and glassware	76,99,686	49,44,307	·99
Railway plant and rolling stock	....	....	....
Tea-chests, entire or in sections	55,43,503	43,15,163	·87
Paper making materials	42,86,115	40,00,176	·80
Paints and painter's materials	54,58,701	39,81,711	·80
Boots and shoes	34,96,806	39,14,007	·78
Artificial silk	57,99,296	38,34,274	·77
Dyeing and tanning substances	22,41,077	29,73,875	·60
Cycles (other than motor cycles)	44,82,505	28,05,952	·56
Silk goods	19,77,440	26,79,253	·54
Wood and timber	27,98,931	26,62,978	·54
Stationery (excluding paper)	33,73,479	26,16,262	·53
Building and engineering materials	38,11,501	25,51,536	·51
Apparel (excluding hosiery and boots and shoes) ..	29,66,472	24,76,192	·50
Other articles	5,89,24,164	3,82,20,923	7·71
Total	81,30,75,265	49,86,17,433	100·00

Liquor.

280. The imports of liquors of all descriptions, which showed considerable improvement last year, declined from 2,202,801 gallons valued at Rs. 1,11·10 lakhs to 2,047,558 gallons valued at Rs. 93·25 lakhs. This falling off was due to a contraction in the imports of spirits and beverages, except denatured spirits, which, due to increased demand for commercial purposes, improved from 356,149 gallons valued at Rs. 4·27 lakhs to 531,593 gallons valued at Rs. 5·10 lakhs.

Imports of ale, beer and porter declined from 1,173,231 gallons to 1,089,719 gallons in quantity, and from Rs. 26·33 lakhs to Rs. 23·51 lakhs in value. The total imports of spirits and liquors also fell from 944,244 gallons to 893,139 gallons and that of wines from 81,782 gallons to 62,468 gallons. The shrinkage in the imports of spirits and liquors was due to a contraction in the imports of brandy from 92,747 gallons to 70,231 gallons and of whisky from 183,845 gallons to 166,713 gallons and also of rum from 194,268 gallons to 24,909 gallons.

The United Kingdom was responsible for the bulk of the trade in ale, beer and porter, as well as in whisky and gin, with 710,561, 165,754 and 38,115 gallons respectively. France, as usual supplied most of the brandy, and Java most of the rum. The total quantity of gin imported was 38,473 gallons.

Sugar.

281. Due to overproduction in all the producing countries, the stock of sugar was very much in excess of the world demand. As a natural consequence of this, prices continued their downward course, and were about two rupees below the last year's figures, which were considered to be the lowest yet recorded. But this abnormal fall in the prices did not in any way help to maintain the improvement in the trade which was noticed last year. In consequence of the uncertain position of the trade, and the accumulation of stocks in the market, due to the importation of a very large amount of the commodity in anticipation of a rise in the duty, the Calcutta dealers were reluctant to import more than what they actually required. As a result of this, the imports diminished to the extent of 41,000 tons in quantity, and Rs. 2,01·40 lakhs in value, the total coming up to 326,683 tons valued at Rs. 2,58·12 lakhs.

Owing to the prices ruling very low throughout the year, Continental beet sugar was practically driven out of the market; the total imports amounted to only 40 tons, against 6,339 tons in the previous year. During the closing months of the year there were reports of large sales of Russian sugar at competitive prices.

Imports of cup sugar and molasses sugar markedly increased, the total reaching 3,722 tons against 494 tons in the previous year. These commodities were required mainly for an up-country sugar refining factory and not for competition against indigenous "gur," as was observed in the last year's report.

Imports of high grade sugar from the United Kingdom fell from 10,657 tons to 952 tons only, due mainly to high prices. This decline may also be partly attributed to political causes, as there was increased demand of this quality of sugar from China, which improved her supplies from 184 tons to 827 tons.

The unfounded rumour regarding the increase of duty on sugar had the effect of increasing the imports of molasses from 59,474 tons to 80,764 tons.

Salt.

282. The steady improvement in this trade which is being recorded for the last few years, was maintained. The total imports from all sources increased in quantity from 553,030 tons to 602,031 tons, but the value, due to lower prices, dropped from Rs. 1,24·76 lakhs to Rs. 1,05·33 lakhs. Imports from Italian East Africa, Egypt (Port Said) and Germany improved considerably, while the import from Aden dropped from 191,592 tons to 175,069, from Spain from 54,742 tons to 46,385 tons, and from the United Kingdom from 76,864 tons to 36,716 tons. Of the Indian ports, imports from Sind and Kathiawar advanced slightly from 17,819 tons to 18,098 tons, and 6,883 tons to 8,622 tons respectively, but those from Bombay declined from 28,732 tons to 21,583 tons, and from Madras against 3,186 tons in the previous year. A striking feature of the trade was, that, for the first time, a consignment of 29,160 tons of salt which found a ready market was received from Ras Hafun, a port in Africa (Italian Somali Coast).

During the year under report, the actual consumption of salt imported from the United Kingdom and Aden dropped considerably from 63,582 tons to 41,814 tons and from 176,495 tons to 141,300 tons respectively, while that from Hamburg, Port Said and Spain improved. Considerable improvement was also recorded in the consumption of both Bombay and Karachi salt, the latter securing a steady market. The proportion of salt passing through the Government bonded warehouses at Salkea decreased, but the quantity in bond at the close of the year was 123,739 tons, which exceeded the last year's total by 18,970 tons.

Tobacco.

283. The boycott movement, which was carried on throughout the year, did great damage to this trade, which declined in quantity from 4,434,295 lbs. to 1,552,674 lbs., and in value from Rs. 1,20·96 to Rs. 53·45 lakhs. The main items of the trade which suffered most were the unmanufactured tobacco, required for indigenous

manufacture of cigarettes, and cigarettes, the former declining from 1,924,254 lbs. valued at Rs. 16·73 lakhs to 251,629 lbs. valued at Rs. 2·16 lakhs, and the latter from 2,364,630 lbs. valued at Rs. 94·52 lakhs to 1,185,180 lbs. valued at Rs. 43·82 lakhs. The only striking feature was the stride made by China in her supplies of cigarettes. Imports of cigarettes from that country, which was outside the scope of the boycott movement, rose from 1,226 lbs. to 124,589 lbs. This cigarette has since acquired considerable popularity in Bengal on account of its low price and the quality of tobacco, which is a fair grade of Virginia. The country to suffer most was the United States of America; her supplies of unmanufactured tobacco dropped by about 87 per cent. The United Kingdom, in spite of the boycott movement, continued to be the principal supplier of cigarettes by supplying 87 per cent. of the total imports of the article.

Mineral oil.

284. Imports of mineral oil, which made considerable recovery last year, received a setback, the total from all sources declining from 139,186,361 gallons valued at Rs. 8,65·06 lakhs to 122,511,631 gallons valued at Rs. 7,23·41 lakhs. This falling off was due mainly to the decline in the imports of kerosine oil from the United States, Persia and Borneo, of lubricating and batching oil from Borneo, and petrol, benzine and benzol from Burma.

In the kerosine oil trade imports from all the countries except Azerbaijan declined. The United States, which regained her premier position in this trade last year, by trebling her supplies, which she was enabled to do by effecting a combination amongst all her oil syndicates, suffered a considerable setback, her supplies coming down to 10,709,093 gallons against 14,609,334 gallons; she thereby had to yield her leading position to Azerbaijan, the total supplies from which rose to 13,792,204 gallons against her modest supply of 7,631,176 gallons in the previous year. On account of its low prices the Azerbaijan oil found more favour with the railway and other big consumers than the more expensive American oil. Imports from Persia fell from 4,100,484 gallons valued at Rs. 25·63 lakhs to 838,809 gallons valued at Rs. 5·24 lakhs, and those from Burma also fell from 57,926,322 gallons to 50,788,054 gallons. A notable feature of the trade was that Borneo, which sent across no less than 3,420,703 gallons last year, did not supply a single gallon during the year under report.

In the lubricating and batching oil trade, whatever loss the United States might have suffered in the kerosine oil trade, she made ample amends by increasing her supplies of these commodities from 8,913,496 gallons to 13,238,289 gallons; she thus took the leading position in this trade, displacing Borneo, whose supplies fell from 10,499,676 gallons to 4,922,230 gallons. Imports from

Burma improved from 1,757,624 gallons to 4,512,923 gallons, but owing to prices being very much lower than those of the last year, the increase in the value was not commensurate with the gain in quantity.

With the continued development of motor transport, the imports of petroleum rose from 1,433,015 gallons valued at Rs. 9·41 lakhs to 3,228,780 gallons valued at Rs. 20·99 lakhs. In spite of the heavy increase, imports of this commodity, with benzine and benzol from Burma, declined unaccountably from 15,089,332 to 8,631,315 gallons. Imports of white oil also declined from 1,770,838 gallons valued at Rs. 17·67 lakhs to 733,719 gallons valued at Rs. 6·48 lakhs, due mainly to considerably smaller imports from Germany and Belgium. The United States was the only country to improve her supplies of the commodity from 54,321 gallons to 180,045 gallons.

Motor vehicles.

285. The motor trade of Bengal continued to decline during the year under report. Imports of motor vehicles and parts declined in value from Rs. 1,62·94 lakhs to Rs. 1,14·25 lakhs, and those of tyres from Rs. 35·86 lakhs to Rs. 27·69 lakhs, and tubes from Rs. 5·85 lakhs to Rs. 4·67 lakhs. Imports of motor cars (including taxi cabs) declined in number from 3,229 to 3,080, and in value from Rs. 77·67 lakhs to Rs. 65·37 lakhs, and those of motor omnibuses (including vans and lorries) from 2,468 to 1,088. The reason for this falling off was a contraction in the imports of motor vehicles in general, and commercial vehicles in particular, from all countries except Canada whence the imports of motor cars, due to their growing popularity on account of cheapness, improved from 578 valued at Rs. 10·34 lakhs to 762 valued at Rs. 12·99 lakhs. Imports of motor cycles also declined from 643 valued at Rs. 3·59 lakhs to 483 valued at Rs. 2·68 lakhs. The United Kingdom, as usual, maintained her supremacy in this trade, practically monopolising the supplies. Imports of parts of motor vehicles also similarly declined, the total value realised being Rs. 23·78 lakhs against Rs. 27·85 lakhs in the previous year.

Imports of tyres for motor vehicles also fell off heavily, from 95,865 valued at Rs. 35·86 lakhs, to 67,757 valued at Rs. 27·69 lakhs, and those of tubes from 85,332 valued at Rs. 5·8 lakhs to 68,311 valued at Rs. 4·67 lakhs. In spite of this shrinkage, imports of these goods from the United Kingdom rose in value from Rs. 6·85 lakhs to Rs. 10·40 lakhs, while those from all other countries fell off very considerably.

Drugs, medicines and chemicals.

286. The trade in drugs, medicines and chemicals did not fare any better than the preceding item. There was a general decline under all heads, except camphor and bleaching materials, the total

value aggregating about Rs. 1,66·78 lakhs against Rs. 1,93·02 lakhs. The improvement that was noticed last year in this trade was therefore not maintained. The total imports of camphor, due to increased supplies from Germany and Switzerland, improved slightly in value from Rs. 3·57 lakhs to Rs. 4·13 lakhs, but the development of the local industry in indigenous drugs and patent medicines was responsible for the decline in the imports of miscellaneous drugs and medicines by about Rs. 8·5 lakhs. There was also a considerable drop in the imports of all kinds of heavy chemicals, except bleaching materials, alum and caustic soda, the last named chemical coming in increased quantity from the United Kingdom. Imports of sodium carbonate realised a total value of Rs. 32·40 lakhs, of which a small quantity to the value of Rs. 73,000 came for the first time from Germany and Russia. The United Kingdom was, as usual, the principal participator in this trade, her total supplies covering about 51 per cent. of the total imports.

Glassware and earthenware.

287. The total value of the imports of all kinds of glassware and earthenware declined rather heavily from Rs. 92·16 lakhs to Rs. 60·08 lakhs. Due largely to poor demand for the cheaper varieties of foreign manufacture in consequence of the development of the local industry, the imports of bangles dropped from Rs. 20·87 lakhs to Rs. 11·33 lakhs. The country to suffer most in this trade was Czechoslovakia, the imports from which dwindled to Rs. 2·6 lakhs against Rs. 10·09 lakhs in the previous year. Imports of beads and false pearls fell in quantity from 15,827 cwts. to 7,950 cwts., and in value from Rs. 12·64 lakhs to Rs. 5·28 lakhs, Japan and Czechoslovakia being the principal sufferers, their supplies declining in value from Rs. 5·38 lakhs to Rs. 2·65 lakhs, and from Rs. 5·19 lakhs to Rs. 1·86 lakhs respectively. As a result of smaller supplies from Germany and Japan, imports of bottles and phials declined in value from Rs. 14·01 lakhs to Rs. 10·47 lakhs, and those of glass parts of lamps from Rs. 5·84 lakhs to Rs. 3·49 lakhs. There was also considerable shrinkage in the imports of sheet and plate glass, and other forms of glassware, earthenware and porcelainware due mainly to smaller supplies from Japan and the United Kingdom.

Machinery and mill work.

288. The decline noticed last year in this trade was further accelerated during the year under report, the total value of imports declining by Rs. 1,38·56 lakhs, from Rs. 6,69·29 lakhs to Rs. 5,30·73 lakhs. While the imports of electrical machinery improved by about Rs. 19·52 lakhs, imports of other industrial machinery fell off. With the exception of paper mill and sugar machinery, which improved respectively from Rs. 5·93 lakhs and Rs. 5·44 lakhs to Rs. 6·82 lakhs and Rs. 12·45 lakhs, the value of machinery pertaining practically to all the principal industries

declined considerably, the most noticeable decline being in jute mill machinery, which dropped by about Rs. 61·27 lakhs, from Rs. 1,42·55 lakhs to Rs. 81·28 lakhs. The value of the supplies of the United Kingdom, though she continued to be the principal exporter with 78 per cent. of the total trade, contracted by about Rs. 1,41·08 lakhs. Imports from some of the less important sources showed some improvement, the most prominent amongst them being Germany, whose supplies improved by about Rs. 11 lakhs. Imports of belting also dropped from Rs. 31·92 lakhs to Rs. 22 lakhs, due principally to the decline in imports from the United Kingdom by about Rs. 9·14 lakhs. Imports of packing were maintained at practically the same level as in the previous year; the supply from the United Kingdom advanced slightly, while that from all other countries declined.

Metals, and metal manufactures.

289. The high protective duties and the trade depression had a very damaging effect on the trade in iron and steel. In quantity it did not exceed half of what it was in the previous year, which also was depressed as compared with the year preceding it. The total imports amounted only to 188,742 tons valued at Rs. 3,40·49 lakhs, against 379,823 tons valued at Rs. 6,61·58 lakhs in the previous year, and 492,938 tons valued at Rs. 8,39·70 lakhs in the year 1928-29. The country to suffer most in this trade was the United Kingdom, the imports from which country declined from 238,499 tons valued at Rs. 4,80·31 lakhs to 120,353 tons valued at Rs. 2,35·73 lakhs with the exception of wire, which recorded an improvement of 61 per cent. owing to the revival of the Steel Wire Product Company at Tatanagar. Business under all the heads showed a marked downward trend, the most noticeable being in galvanized sheets and plates, which fell in quantity from 119,284 tons to 54,759 tons, and in value from Rs. 2,49·62 lakhs to Rs. 1,01·59 lakhs.

The trade in metals and ores other than iron and steel fared no better. After a fairly prosperous year it fell off considerably, the total imports aggregating about 387,671 tons valued at Rs. 1,69·85 lakhs against 420,049 tons valued at Rs. 2,41·26 lakhs. This set-back was due to contracted imports under all the heads, and more especially under tin, aluminium, brass, bronze and similar alloys, except under zinc, which improved in quantity from 129,149 tons to 154,440 tons, but decreased in value, due to lower prices, from Rs. 25·68 lakhs to Rs. 22·02 lakhs. The United Kingdom was the principal supplier of aluminium and anti-friction metal, and the bulk of wrought brass came from Germany. The supplies of the last named metal from the United Kingdom declined by about 43,479 cwts.

Paper and pasteboards.

290. Imports of paper and pasteboard, which showed marked improvement last year, declined in quantity from 822,630 cwts. to 658,526 cwts., and in value from Rs. 1,21·19 lakhs to Rs. 87·19 lakhs. This falling off was due to shrinkage in the business under all the heads on account of the depressed state of trade and of the progress made in the local paper industry. In spite of this heavy fall, the United States improved her share of the trade at the expense of other countries, and her supplies increased considerably under all the heads and more particularly under "old newspaper," the amount of which was about twice as much as in the previous year. The countries principally affected were the United Kingdom, whose supplies (of all kinds) fell 49,323 cwts., Germany, in respect of packing paper, whose supplies fell 14,000 cwts., and Norway, which sent 18,000 cwts. less of printing paper. Imports of wood-pulp declined from 467,567 cwts. to 432,597 cwts.; there was a fall of about 96,000 cwts. in Norwegian supplies, but Sweden improved her supplies from 145,448 cwts. to 168,302 cwts., Finland, from 14,055 cwts. to 49,803 cwts., and United Kingdom, from 3,511 cwts. to 8,796 cwts.

Cotton goods.

291. The world trade depression, the boycott movement in India, and the inflated tariff duties were the three principal factors which combined to keep down this trade to a level which is easily the lowest on record. During the year under review the value of the whole trade amounted to Rs. 8,65·08 lakhs only as against Rs. 23,13·89 lakhs in the previous year, Rs. 24,10·20 lakhs in 1928-29, and Rs. 28,10·81 lakhs in 1927-28. In this trade, the principal participators are usually the United Kingdom and Japan. Imports from the United Kingdom, which consisted mainly of Lancashire goods declined in value from Rs. 14,32·05 lakhs to Rs. 4,08·51 lakhs, and those from Japan from Rs. 5,31·25 lakhs to Rs. 2,56·94 lakhs. The decline in the case of the United Kingdom was attributed to the acute economic distress prevailing in Bengal, and also to the boycott movement, which was particularly directed against her goods. The price of Lancashire goods ordinarily rules proportionately high. The heavier tariff duties placed the goods in most cases beyond the reach of the purchasing power of the people in general, and particularly of the cultivating classes, the bulk of the population of Bengal, whose financial resources were greatly undermined by the unprecedented depression in the jute market. Japan, on the other hand, though she suffered a considerable setback in her sales, was successful in further strengthening her position in the market entirely at the expense of Lancashire. This she was enabled to do by judicious handling of the situation, and also to the comparative freedom she enjoyed from the boycott movement. Seeing that the consumers'

reduced purchasing power tended to divert demands to the cheaper varieties, Japan not only concentrated her trade on to the cheaper goods, but at the same time took effective steps by price reductions to neutralise the effect of the protective duties. Over and above this, the development of the local cotton industry materially affected the demands from both these countries.

One of the features of the year was the drop in the value of raw cotton. The production of raw cotton in most of the cultivating countries was very much in excess of the demand. As a result, the price of cotton ruled generally low. As an illustration to the point, the price of middling American, which is most in demand by all the manufacturing countries, may be quoted. During the year the price of this quality of cotton ranged between 5·12*d.* and 9·60*d.*, yielding an average of 7·42*d.* as against 10·28*d.* in 1929, 10·99*d.* in 1928, and 9·52*d.* in 1927. Another noticeable feature was the unprecedented increase in the use of cotton of outside growths at the expense of American cotton, which is fast losing ground.

Imports of cotton twists and yarns from foreign countries dropped from 12,413,493 lbs. to 10,562,920 lbs. in quantity, and from Rs. 1,48,57,597 to Rs. 92,45,419 in value. This decline in the quantity was chiefly the result of less imports of lower counts of yarns, i.e., counts up to 24 S, and of counts of finer grades, i.e., of counts from 41 S and above, although there was a decided advance in the imports of counts of the middle grade, i.e., of counts between 25 S and 40 S. The shrinkage in the case of lower grades was due solely to the protective duties, and that of the finer grades to the boycott movement. The improvement in the case of the middle grades was also due indirectly to the boycott movement. Owing to that movement there has been a striking increase in the demand for indigenous mill-made goods. As the mills in India generally use these grades of yarns for their manufactures, they could not release any for the hand-loom and other allied industries. With a view to meet the demands for the latter industries there was considerable increase in the imports of these grades from outside countries. As only the yarns of finer counts come from the United Kingdom, the total imports from that country naturally dwindled from 3,947,216 lbs. valued at Rs. 57,22,849 to 1,820,064 lbs. valued at Rs. 20,65,238. On the other hand, imports from Japan and China, which consisted of middle grades, improved from 1,159,100 lbs. to 1,783,272 lbs., and from 6,233,734 lbs. to 6,935,510 lbs. There was also a considerable shrinkage in the imports from Italy, from 676,213 lbs. to 22,000 lbs., while there were no supplies from the Netherlands and Switzerland, against 1,590 lbs. and 395,440 lbs. respectively in the previous year.

Imports of cotton piecegoods declined in quantity from 853,339,724 lbs. to 342,566,907 lbs., and in value from Rs. 20,19·73 lakhs to Rs. 6,80·12 lakhs. This falling off was due to a heavy shrinkage in the imports from the United Kingdom under all the heads. Although Japan lost to a considerable extent in plain grey and coloured goods, she improved her supplies of grey bordered goods a little, and of white goods quite appreciably. The United Kingdom, though she still retains her supremacy in the market, has lost considerable ground to Japan. During the last four years the contributions of the United Kingdom to the total trade dwindled, in plain grey goods, from 87 per cent. to 40 per cent., in white piecegoods, from 97 per cent. to 81 per cent., and in coloured piecegoods, from 70 per cent. to 64 per cent.; while those of Japan improved in grey plain, from 13 per cent. to 52 per cent., in white piecegoods, from 1 per cent. to 17 per cent. and in coloured piecegoods from 23 per cent. to 32 per cent. The main reason for this is the high rate of the prices of British goods.

The setback experienced in the cotton piecegoods trade as indicated in the foregoing paragraph was the result of a heavy decline in the imports of plain grey piecegoods from 160,849,498 lbs. valued at Rs. 3,54·47 lakhs to 70,534,411 lbs. valued at Rs. 1,31·76 lakhs, and also to that in grey bordered from 462,062,640 lbs. valued at Rs. 10,26·34 lakhs to 158,511,676 valued at Rs. 2,86·35 lakhs. The loss was further widened by the shrinkage in the imports of white piecegoods from 113,984,290 lbs. to 49,104,112 lbs. in quantity, and from Rs. 2,81·19 lakhs to Rs. 97·22 lakhs in value; and also by that of coloured goods from 116,443,296 lbs. valued at Rs. 3,57·73 lakhs to 64,416,708 lbs. valued at Rs. 1,64·79 lakhs.

The following table shows the total contributions of the two principal exporting countries, viz., the United Kingdom and Japan under the different items of the trade:—

Piece-goods.	1929-30.		1930-31.	
	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.
Grey plain—				
United Kingdom	20,691,908	44·80	3,978,423	6·63
Japan	136,722,697	3,03·07	66,269,359	1,24·48
Grey bordered—				
United Kingdom	410,485,184	1,16·87	106,708,370	2,08·32
Japan	51,577,456	1,09·47	51,803,306	78·03

Piece-goods.	1929-30.		1930-31.	
	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.	lbs.	Rs. Lakhs.
White—				
United Kingdom	106,393,271	2,58·70	39,778,075	79·19
Japan	4,511,534	10·88	8,348,544	14·25
Coloured, printed or dyed—				
United Kingdom	62,978,062	2,11·68	41,103,957	1,14·37
Japan	45,608,549	1,07·83	20,961,169	40·18

Silk and artificial silk.

292. In spite of the economic depression, and the boycott movement, imports of silk and artificial silk piecegoods of all kinds improved in yardage from 10,672,365 to 11,374,546, but the value, owing to a fall in the prices, dropped from Rs. 62·08 lakhs to Rs. 52·10 lakhs. Stimulated by price reduction imports of silk and artificial silk piecegoods from China and Japan advanced from 1,384,961 yards valued at Rs. 11,18,158 to 2,876,353 yards valued at Rs. 17,77,420, but those from all other countries declined considerably in value. The only article to show improved imports was pure silk piecegoods from Belgium, which rose in quantity from 19,973 yards to 100,676 yards, and in value from Rs. 15,209 to Rs. 63,165. Imports of artificial silk piecegoods from all the exporting countries declined heavily, except from France, China and Japan the supplies of which improved in yardage from 2,481,828 to 4,231,311, and in value from Rs. 13,84,972 to Rs. 16,06,380.

Woollen goods.

293. The economic depression and the political unrest in India did very great damage to this trade, which declined in the aggregate value by about 33 per cent. from Rs. 84·02 lakhs to Rs. 56·09 lakhs. Owing to the boycott movement directed against her goods, the United Kingdom suffered a general loss in the total value by over 53 per cent. from Rs. 27·05 lakhs to Rs. 12·57 lakhs, the main losses being Rs. 3·65 lakhs in hosiery, about Rs. 7·50 lakhs in woollen piecegoods, and over Rs. 2 lakhs in shawls. Imports of hosiery from the Continent also declined to a considerable extent, but those from Japan was maintained at the last year's level. An outstanding feature was, that, in spite of the economic depression, Italy, unlike all other countries, not only fully maintained her share of the trade, but showed marked progress under certain heads. The import of shawls from France was practically nil.

Other articles.

294. The trade under practically all the articles of minor importance declined considerably in value, except in the cases of

aniline dyes, which advanced from Rs. 13·57 lakhs to Rs. 22·89 lakhs, of which Germany contributed Rs. 18·42 lakhs against Rs. 8·93 lakhs in the previous year, and boots and shoes, which, due to an expansion in Japan's share from Rs. 12·19 lakhs to over Rs. 39 lakhs, improved from Rs. 34·97 lakhs to Rs. 39·14 lakhs.

The main articles which suffered decline under this head are shown below; the extent of the loss is shown against each:—

Grain, pulse and flour by Rs. 162·42 lakhs. Hardware, excluding cutlery and electroplatedware by Rs. 58·17 lakhs, of which the United Kingdom's share only, due to a decline in the imports of agricultural implements, builders' hardware implements, tools and metal lamps accounted for Rs. 26·90 lakhs. Instruments and apparatus by Rs. 32·01 lakhs, due principally to contraction in the imports from the United Kingdom by Rs. 30·53 lakhs. Lac by Rs. 42·08 lakhs; leather by Rs. 9·65 lakhs; manures by Rs. 15·98 lakhs; oil, other than mineral oil, by Rs. 17·26 lakhs, of which cocoanut oil accounted for Rs. 13·82 lakhs; paints and painters' materials by Rs. 14·77 lakhs, due chiefly to a decline in the share of the United Kingdom by Rs. 8·71 lakhs; provisions and oilman's stores by Rs. 17·42 lakhs, the whole of which came out of the normal share of the United Kingdom; printing and lithographing machinery by Rs. 6·99 lakhs; soap by Rs. 11·2 lakhs, of which the United Kingdom accounted for Rs. 9·56 lakhs; spices by Rs. 38·15 lakhs, betelnuts from the Straits Settlements accounting for Rs. 35·83 lakhs; stationery by Rs. 7·57 lakhs, more than one half of which was borne by the United Kingdom; tea by Rs. 11·79 lakhs; tea chests by Rs. 12·28 lakhs, the United Kingdom's total loss of Rs. 14·19 lakhs being made up by Esthonia, Finland and Japan; cycles by Rs. 16·77 lakhs, the United Kingdom's total loss of Rs. 19·16 lakhs being neutralised by the gains of other countries; wool (raw) by Rs. 9·33 lakhs, practically the whole falling to Australia; cigarettes, jewellery and precious stones, cinematograph films, and gold and silver thread by about Rs. 3 lakhs on the aggregate; and articles not specified by about Rs. 12 lakhs.

Import trade of Chittagong.

295. Chittagong is the only other foreign trade port in Bengal. During the year under review the total value of imports into this port from foreign countries amounted to Rs. 1,34·79 lakhs against Rs. 2,06·90 lakhs in the previous year, and Rs. 2,34·96 lakhs in 1928-29. There was an appreciable shrinkage under practically all the heads of principal merchandise, and more especially under metals, which declined from Rs. 92·22 lakhs to Rs. 45·05 lakhs, machinery from Rs. 54·12 lakhs to Rs. 27·98 lakhs, and cotton

goods from Rs. 11·42 lakhs to Rs. 4·54 lakhs. The only commodities to show slight improvement were tea-chests and salt, the former rising from Rs. 8·85 lakhs to Rs. 10·37 lakhs, and the latter from Rs. 10·58 lakhs to Rs. 11·13 lakhs.

Exports.

296. Exports of Indian merchandise from Calcutta declined further, as compared with the previous year from Rs. 1,27,02,94,014 to Rs. 81,14,99,107. The comparative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta is shown in the following table:—

	1929-30.	1930-31.	Percentage of proportion to total merchandise exported.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Jute manufactures	51,86,04,507	31,84,59,303	39·45
Tea	16,78,75,356	14,64,32,640	18·14
Jute, raw	25,74,88,634	12,46,34,704	15·44
Hides and skins, raw	4,82,25,588	3,32,58,900	4·12
Seeds	4,04,05,720	3,28,12,834	4·06
Lac	6,88,24,443	3,10,50,300	3·85
Metals and ores	4,30,09,384	2,71,65,971	3·36
Grain, pulse and flour	3,01,67,468	2,36,38,461	2·93
Opium	1,42,00,000	1,22,04,000	1·51
Manures	61,57,323	63,14,129	·78
Paraffin wax	46,01,231	56,67,654	·70
Mica	85,89,847	55,97,896	·69
Coal, coke and patent fuel	71,95,583	49,24,583	·61
Dyeing and tanning substances	40,15,304	37,21,518	·46
Woollen manufactures	41,49,824	37,09,491	·46
Postal articles	37,06,505	32,40,402	·40
Oil cakes	58,16,362	32,38,991	·40
Hemp, raw	47,10,885	29,05,315	·36
Cotton, raw	33,45,230	28,30,907	·35
Spices	25,59,640	23,32,060	·29
Provisions and oilman's stores	25,67,045	21,49,530	·27
Apparel (excluding hosiery, boots and shoes) ..	20,70,997	13,48,139	·17
Oils	13,09,694	8,52,494	·11
Tobacco	10,40,892	6,73,224	·08
Tea waste	4,50,074	6,21,284	·08
Cordage and rope	9,15,668	6,17,039	·08
Leather	8,37,779	5,80,042	·07
Saltpetre	6,00,324	5,71,475	·07
Other articles	1,11,68,400	57,06,998	·71
Total	1,26,47,29,797	80,72,60,284	100·00

297. In spite of the trade depression, the progress noticed last year was maintained. The total exports improved, though slightly, from 154,056 tons to 154,533 tons, but the value declined from Rs. 3,01·67 lakhs to Rs. 2,36·38 lakhs. This decline in value was due to a drop in the prices of the principal commodities comprising this trade, e.g., husked rice from Rs. 199-3-1 to Rs. 158-7-10 per ton, wheat from Rs. 177-10-3 to Rs. 143-1-9 per ton, and wheat flour from Rs. 189-14-7 to Rs. 147-3-10 per ton. Mauritius was, as usual, the chief customer, but her purchases fell from 24,613 tons to 23,394 tons. Exports to Natal, Aden, Germany and the United Kingdom improved to some extent, and accounted for the rise in the total exports. The Netherlands kept up the level she reached last year by taking 10,182 tons. Grain, pulse and flour.

298. In spite of the universal setback in commodity prices in 1930, the price of Bengal tea remained fairly steady throughout that year. But from the beginning of 1931 a general depression set in, when prices fell to their lowest level. As, however, this slackness continued only for a very short time during the period under review, it did not seriously affect the average price, which, according to the shipping bills, was 10 annas and 3 pies per pound as against 10 annas and 10 pies in the previous year. Tea.

During the year under review the outturn of tea declined by 42½ million lbs. the total quantity being 329½ million lbs. as against 372 million lbs. in the previous year. This falling off was due to a scheme formulated by the three main tea-producing countries, viz., India, Ceylon and Java, for the purpose of restricting output with a view to relieving the accumulated stocks resulting from the successive years of overproduction, and to unfavourable weather conditions. It is, however, gratifying to note that although the bad weather conditions prevailed throughout the season, the tea produced was generally of good average quality.

The total quantity of tea exported from Calcutta to the various importing countries amounted to 228,334,898 lbs. valued at Rs. 14,64·33 lakhs against 247,352,676 lbs. valued at Rs. 16,78·75 lakhs in the previous year. The United Kingdom was, as usual, the principal buyer, though her purchases declined from 192,580,766 lbs. to 176,680,393 lbs., an amount which formed about 77 per cent. of the total shipments. There was also a decline in the shipments to most of the principal markets except to the United States, Russia, Turkey in Asia and China, the takings of which countries improved, in the case of China to the extent of 1·73 million lbs.

299. Owing to the trade depression the slight improvement that was made in this trade last year disappeared, the total exports declining in quantity from 685,063 tons to 427,911 tons and in

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value from Rs. 71·56 lakhs to Rs. 48·99 lakhs. Shipments to all the importing countries declined, and more especially those to Ceylon, which dropped from 360,251 tons to 295,757 tons, and those to the Straits Settlements which fell from 59,013 to 25,158 tons.

Lac.

300. Exports of lac (both manufactured and unmanufactured) declined from 658,910 cwts. valued at Rs. 6,88·24 lakhs to 542,819 cwts. valued at Rs. 3,10·50 lakhs. Although the exports were the lowest for the last three years, due mainly to the general trade depression, shipments of seed lac expanded from 62,474 cwts. to 103,361 cwts. of which the United States took 79,669 cwts. As a result of the shrinkage in the demands from Germany and Belgium, the two principal buyers, shipments of refuse lac dropped from 70,485 cwts. to 45,984 cwts. Exports of button lac fell slightly from 24,175 cwts. to 23,676 cwts., and that of shellac rather heavily from 498,215 cwts. to 366,413 cwts. The United Kingdom absorbed the bulk of the former, while the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany were the principal consumers of the latter, with 117,043 cwts., 95,835 cwts. and 64,208 cwts. respectively.

Hides and skins.

301. The hides and skins trade of Bengal sank to a level which is considered to be the lowest on record. The total exports aggregated 23,374 tons valued at Rs. 3,36·17 lakhs, as against 27,104 tons valued at Rs. 4,89·46 lakhs of last year. Exports of raw hides declined from 17,935 tons valued at Rs. 1,96·00 lakhs to 15,203 tons valued at Rs. 1,26·11 lakhs. This falling off was mainly the result of a contraction in the shipments of cow hides by 2,642 tons. Germany and Italy were again the principal purchasers of these goods, but the value of their takings dropped heavily from Rs. 87·69 lakhs to Rs. 48·11 lakhs, and from Rs. 36·32 lakhs to Rs. 26·47 lakhs respectively. The purchases of Spain also shrank in value from Rs. 12·33 lakhs to Rs. 4·42 lakhs only. A striking feature was that the United Kingdom, which usually takes a very minor part in this trade, was the only country to improve her purchases, which she did by about a lakh of rupees.

The trade in raw skins fared no better. Due to a contraction in demand from all the principal purchasing countries including the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the total value of the exports receded from Rs. 2,83·56 lakhs to Rs. 2,04·85 lakhs. The bulk of this trade was made up of goat skins, which numbered 11,029,032 pieces, weighing 6,892 tons. Exports of cuttings of raw hides and skins also declined in value from Rs. 2·69 lakhs to Rs. 1·63 lakhs, and those of dressed hides and skins from Rs. 7·21 lakhs to Rs. 3·58 lakhs only.

Metals and ores.

302. The progress that has been noticed in this trade for the last few years received a general setback. The total exports to all the principal countries contracted in value from Rs. 4,30,69,384 to Rs. 2,71,65,971 due to a falling off in the exports under all the heads. During the year under review shipments of manganese ore to all the principal countries declined considerably. The United Kingdom, Belgium, France and the United States were again the prominent buyers of this commodity, but their purchases declined to 52,940 tons, 53,500 tons, 52,552 tons and 43,750 tons respectively, as against 156,224 tons, 129,499 tons, 71,234 tons, and 51,500 tons in the previous year. Hungary and Czechoslovakia to which there were no shipments in the previous year, took 8,500 tons and 1,500 tons respectively. There were again no shipments of ferromanganese during the year.

Exports of pig iron also declined from 568,733 tons worth Rs. 2,59·36 lakhs to 439,120 tons worth Rs. 1,70·39 lakhs. A noteworthy feature of the trade was that, in spite of the trade depression, the United Kingdom was successful in improving her last year's record purchases, the total quantity of her takings coming up to 98,950 tons against 71,277 tons in the previous year. Similar improvement was also noticed in the case of the United States, whose purchases rose from 86,059 tons against 108,171 tons, but shipments to Japan, the biggest consumer of this commodity, declined heavily from 349,472 tons to 160,584 tons.

The trade in scrap iron and steel dropped from 72,159 tons to 53,129 tons. Japan was, as usual, the chief consumer, but her purchases contracted in quantity from 64,967 tons to 50,354 tons. But, unlike all the previous articles, exports of ores rose from 4,164 tons to 6,598 tons. These included the shipments of 6,387 tons of kayanite, of which Belgium took 3,100 tons, the United Kingdom, 1,451 tons, and the Netherlands 1,218 tons; and shipments of 450 tons of chromite to the United States, 470 tons of bauxite to Japan and 600 tons of peroxide ore to Germany.

Mica.

303. This trade, after a year of considerable progress, met with a great setback during the year under report, the total shipments receding in quantity from 102,116 cwts. to 62,366 cwts., and in value from Rs. 85·90 lakhs to Rs. 55·98 lakhs. These figures, which are the lowest on record for the last few years, were the direct result of a considerable drop in the shipments to all the principal countries and more especially to the United Kingdom, except Italy. Shipments of block mica dropped from 12,824 cwts. valued at Rs. 17·66 lakhs. The United Kingdom and the United

States were again the principal purchasers, the total takings of the former amounted to 4,169 cwts. valued at Rs. 8·89 lakhs, and those of the latter to 1,541 cwts. valued at Rs. 3·82 lakhs. Shipments of mica splittings, which formed the bulk of this trade, also declined in quantity from 89,292 cwts. to 54,303 cwts., and in value from Rs. 55·36 lakhs to Rs. 38·31 lakhs. The United Kingdom and the United States were again the principal customers in this trade as well, by taking respectively 19,679 cwts. and 19,000 cwts. at a cost of Rs. 15·21 lakhs and Rs. 15·46 lakhs.

Oil seeds and vegetable oils.

304. Exports of oil seeds and vegetable oils, etc., which made considerable recovery last year, received a general setback during the year under report, the total value receding from Rs. 4,72·68 lakhs to Rs. 3,67·38 lakhs. This decline was mainly due to a shrinkage in the value of exports of both oil seeds and vegetable oils, the former declining from Rs. 4,01·49 lakhs to Rs. 3,26·52 lakhs, and the latter from Rs. 13·03 lakhs to Rs. 8·47 lakhs. Shipments of oil-cakes also dropped in value from Rs. 58·16 lakhs to Rs. 32·39 lakhs.

The decline under oil seeds was due to a contraction in the exports of both linseed and castor seeds, the former receding in quantity from 168,427 tons to 153,898 tons, and the latter from 11,642 tons to 2,573 tons. The falling off in the shipments of oil seeds was indicative of the slackness of the activity of the oil-crushing industry in Europe, which was in some measure due to difficulty in disposing of oil-cake, caused by the plentiful supply of other feeding stuffs at comparatively low prices. The contraction in the exports of linseed was due to less exports to all the principal exporting countries, though the all-India supply of the commodity improved considerably owing to the shortage of supplies in other producing countries. Egypt was the principal customer with a purchase of 68,945 tons, and next to her came the United Kingdom with 49,916 tons against 58,952 tons in the previous year. The trade in poppy seed, til seed, and mustard seed was practically negligible. Exports of tea seed amounted to 627 tons, of which Georgia took 395 tons.

The contraction in the shipments of vegetable oil was due mainly to a decline in the exports of mustard or rape oil from 228,318 gallons to 202,498 gallons of castor oil from 153,908 gallons to 112,377 gallons, and of linseed oil from 169,027 gallons to only 74,002 gallons. Of these oils more than a moiety of mustard oil went to Mauritius, and a third of the castor and linseed oils went respectively to Australia and the Straits Settlements.

The decline in the shipments of oil-cakes was due to less exports under all the heads and more especially under linseed cake, which fell from 27,594 tons to 10,390 tons, the United Kingdom taking practically the whole of this quantity, as against 22,814 tons in the previous year.

Cotton and cotton manufactures.

305. During the year under review shipments of raw cotton improved a little in quantity from 4,010 tons to 4,588 tons, but the value, due to lower prices, declined from Rs. 33·45 lakhs to Rs. 28·24 lakhs. This improvement in the quantity, which was rather striking in view of the universal economic depression, was principally due to an improvement in the demand of the United States from 1,370 tons to 1,899 tons, of Belgium from 266 tons to 308 tons, of Japan from 90 tons to 273 tons, of Italy from 62 tons to 123 tons, and of the United Kingdom from 206 tons to 255 tons. Germany was practically the only country to curtail her requirements, from 1,329 tons to 1,172 tons.

The trade in manufactured goods, viz., twist and yarn, was, however, practically negligible, the total shipments dwindling to 112 lbs. only against 14,896 lbs. in the previous year.

Hemp.

306. The export trade in hemp dropped considerably in quantity from 315,689 cwts. to 225,325 cwts., and in value from Rs. 47·10 lakhs to Rs. 29·05 lakhs. The decline in value, which is proportionately heavier than the decline in quantity, was due to the prices ruling low at Rs. 12-14-4 per cwt. as compared with Rs. 14-14-9 per cwt. in the previous year. Belgium again proved to be the chief consumer, though her purchases declined from 123,779 cwts. to 117,059 cwts. The United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and the United States also reduced their requirements to a considerable extent.

Jute and jute manufactures.

307. The year proved to be one of the worst ever experienced by the jute industry in Bengal. The world trade depression which had cast its shadow on this trade in the closing months of the preceding year, intensified its effect in the year under review. The total shipments contracted in quantity from 1,724,224 tons to 1,366,008 tons, and the value, owing to the prices ruling very low throughout the year, shrank still lower in proportion, the total amount aggregating only Rs. 44,30·94 lakhs against the comparatively modest total of last year, viz., Rs. 77,60·93 lakhs.

During the year 1930 there was a bumper jute crop, and the total yield was very much in excess of the normal requirements. The trade depression led to an all-round slackness in the demand

for raw jute, and the year opened with the Calcutta prices of first marks of jute ruling at the figure of Rs. 49-8 per bale of 400 lbs., as compared with Rs. 69 per bale in the corresponding period of the previous year. As the year advanced the slump increased and *pari passu* the price began to come down, and by the second week of September, i.e., just after the publication of the final forecast, which estimated the yield at 8·45 lakhs of bales more than the total outturn of last year, it stood at Rs. 30-8 per bale. Thereafter it again took a slow downward course, and finally settled at Rs. 28-4 per bale at the close of the year. As a result of this fall, the average shipment price worked up to Rs. 37-1-2 only per bale, as against Rs. 59-14-6 in 1929-30. In spite of this low level of the prices the total imports of raw jute into Calcutta during the period from the 1st July to the 31st March 1931 declined to 85·1 lakhs of bales as against 90·9 lakhs of bales during the corresponding period of the previous year. The net collection of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust amounted to Rs. 10·24 lakhs as compared with Rs. 13·73 lakhs in the previous year.

Owing to the low level of prices, the cultivators realised only Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8 per maund of jute, which is almost the lowest level recorded this century. It is generally estimated that Rs. 5-8 per maund or thereabouts is the economic limit for jute, that is to say, when the price falls below that amount, the cultivator is unable to meet his normal expenses. Having to sell their produce below the economic limit the cultivators suffered very heavily. The Government of Bengal took steps to educate cultivators to the idea of restrictive production, and this action is already bearing fruit. There are indications that prices will rise to the region of Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 per maund next season.

The trade depression led to a huge accumulation of stocks of manufactured goods in the jute mills, and this had an inevitable effect on the prices. To ease the situation, the jute mills drastically restricted production. Hours were cut down, and 15 per cent. of the looms were closed down in all the mills. Even this proved to be of no little avail. Stocks in the mills continued to mount up, and prices to fall. As a result there was a huge drop in the profits of the Indian Jute Mills, from Rs. 6·26 crores in the previous year to Rs. 2·65 crores.

During the year exports of raw jute declined in quantity from 4,298,240 bales to 3,361,764 bales, and in value from Rs. 25,78·89 lakhs to Rs. 12,46·35 lakhs. Germany was again the principal buyer, but her total takings declined from 1,184,411 bales to 934,511 bales. Next to her came the United Kingdom, but she too reduced

her takings from 787,679 bales to 537,130 bales. The other importing countries followed suit, though they all maintained their former proportions of the trade.

As regards manufactured goods, exports of gunny bags declined from 497,760 tons, valued at Rs. 21,84·69 lakhs, to 416,026 tons, valued at Rs. 14,58·83 lakhs. The falling off in quantity was the result of numerical contraction in the shipments of sacking bags from 426,032,909 to 352,476,954 and of hessian bags from 95,265,656 to 80,905,070. Shipments of these goods to all countries declined, except to the two principal purchasing countries, viz., Australasia and Java, the former improving her share from 85,026,189 bags to 100,259,408 bags, and the latter from 37,256,100 bags to 41,646,730 bags. The United Kingdom came next to these countries, but her requirements shrank from 53,000,585 bags valued at Rs. 2,00·61 lakhs to 40,073,843 bags valued at Rs. 1,20·97 lakhs. Of the other countries to curtail their requirements, Chili, Peru and China were the most prominent, the two former countries reducing their requirements from 42,836,100 bags to 24,586,284 bags, and the latter from 39,015,900 bags to 18,622,000 bags.

Exports of gunny cloth also declined in yardage from 1,650,052,024 to 1,270,513,465 and in value from Rs. 29,68·37 lakhs to Rs. 16,85·92 lakhs. The decline in yardage was due mainly to a constriction in the shipments of hessian cloth from 1,598,370,932 to 1,238,132,651; the value fell by over a crore of rupees to Rs. 16,35·39 lakhs. The shipments of sacking cloth also declined from 51,681,692 yards to 32,380,814 yards. The United States was again the principal buyer, but her purchases contracted from 1,071,908,666 yards to 853,798,377 yards. The other prominent decreases were in the cases of the Argentine, from 329,286,800 yards to 208,595,000 yards; Canada from 81,563,875 yards to 73,063,515 yards, and the United Kingdom, from 58,593,322 yards to 40,187,257 yards.

Opium.

308. Exports of opium dropped further from 3,550 chests valued at Rs. 1,42·00 lakhs to 3,051 chests valued at Rs. 1,22·04 lakhs. This decline was due in the main to a shrinkage in the demands of Indo-China from 1,662 chests to 1,321 chests, and of Siam from 1,233 chests to 1,044 chests. Java, after a slack year, improved her requirements from 604 chests to 643 chests.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

309. But for a slight decrease in the quantity, the export trade in dyeing and tanning substances was practically maintained at the same level as in the preceding year. The total shipments shrank

from 24,780 tons to 23,619 tons, due to slight drops in the shipments of myrobalans from 22,953 tons to 22,572 tons, and those of myrobalan extracts from 1,270 tons to 508 tons. The United Kingdom was again the chief customer for myrobalans, absorbing 7,948 tons. Exports of safflower, which was again in poor demand, declined from 1,692 cwts. to 1,329 cwts. of which the Straits Settlements took 1,067 cwts. Shipments of turmeric, due to a better demand, improved from 1,427 cwts. to 2,061 cwts. Business in cutch and gambier also advanced from 5,198 cwts. to 5,560 cwts., of which 2,801 cwts. went to the United Kingdom, 1,250 cwts. to the Netherlands and 1,194 cwts. to France. The demand for indigo, due to a slackening in prices, increased slightly from 537 cwts. to 558 cwts., of which 248 cwts. went to Greece.

Other articles.

310. Of the articles of minor importance shipments of manures, which consisted mostly of bones to the value of Rs. 51·62 lakhs, improved from Rs. 61·57 lakhs to Rs. 63·14 lakhs. Belgium was again the principal buyer. The value of her purchases amounted to Rs. 24·35 lakhs. The expansion in the exports of paraffin wax from Rs. 46·01 lakhs to Rs. 56·68 lakhs was primarily the result of improved trade with Portuguese East Africa, which contributed no less than Rs. 24·46 lakhs. Shipments of woollen manufactures, which consisted mostly of carpets and rugs, receded from Rs. 41·50 lakhs to Rs. 37·09 lakhs, and those of fruits and vegetables from Rs. 5·50 lakhs to Rs. 2·96 lakhs, the bulk under this head being in dried fruits, valued at Rs. 2·58 lakhs. Due to a contraction in the shipments of chillies, the total value of exports of spices shrank from Rs. 25·60 lakhs to Rs. 23·32 lakhs. Shipments of tobacco also dropped from Rs. 10·41 lakhs to Rs. 6·73 lakhs, including unmanufactured tobacco valued at Rs. 5·76 lakhs, of which Japan accounted for Rs. 3·12 lakhs. Owing to a decline in the shipments of *ghi* from Rs. 21·22 lakhs to Rs. 17·71 lakhs, the trade in provisions contracted from Rs. 25·67 lakhs to Rs. 21·50 lakhs, the Straits Settlements alone reducing her share by about Rs. 3·24 lakhs.

Foreign exports from Chittagong.

311. The export trade of Chittagong with foreign ports sustained yet another fall from Rs. 6,64·48 lakhs to Rs. 5,59·93 lakhs. The decline in this case too is traced to the world trade depression and the political upheaval in India. Of the items of trade carried on from this port, tea and raw jute were the most affected, the former receding in value from Rs. 4,90·65 lakhs to Rs. 4,75·29 lakhs, and the latter from Rs. 1,31·14 lakhs to only Rs. 39·13 lakhs. The United Kingdom was, as usual, the principal participator in this trade, but her share declined by about 16 per cent., from 91 per cent. to 75 per cent.

312. The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Calcutta with the principal trading countries.

	Imports.				Exports.			
	1929-30.		1930-31.		1929-30.		1930-31.	
	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total imports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total imports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total exports.	Value Rs. (lakhs).	Percentage of total exports.
United Kingdom	40,12·09	49·34	21,16·72	42·45	27,03·17	21·28	19,02·30	23·44
British Possessions	7,30·66	8·99	4,20·58	8·44	18,24·04	14·36	13,15·24	16·21
Germany	4,03·73	4·97	3,26·23	6·54	997·82	7·85	5,08·02	6·26
France	81·18	1·00	54·30	1·09	5,51·85	4·34	2,60·30	3·21
Belgium	1,73·00	2·13	91·52	1·84	3,30·06	2·60	2,26·63	2·79
Italy	1,60·39	1·97	1,10·25	2·21	2,64·90	2·09	1,41·93	1·75
Java	5,84·56	7·19	4,05·39	8·13	2,09·02	1·65	1,96·55	2·42
Japan	8,15·74	10·03	5,26·70	10·56	3,84·20	3·02	1,68·43	2·07
United States	5,27·93	6·49	4,61·52	9·26	28,73·59	22·62	16,52·39	20·36
South America	15·96	·20	1·71	·03	9,71·21	7·65	4,87·12	6·00
Other Countries	6,25·51	7·69	4,81·25	9·45	15,93·08	12·54	12,55·99	15·49
Total ..	81,30·75	100·00	49,96·17	100·00	1,27,02·94	100·00	81,14·90	100·00

Distribution of the foreign trade of Calcutta.

The foreign trade of Calcutta with all countries except Russia and Africa received a substantial setback. In comparison with last year the total imports from all the countries declined in value by 39 per cent., and the exports by 36 per cent.

British Empire.

313. Of the countries in the British Empire trading with Calcutta, the United Kingdom suffered most. On the import side her supplies fell off in value by about 46 per cent., from Rs. 40,12·09 lakhs to Rs. 21,16·72 lakhs. This decline was the result of a substantial contraction in her supplies of practically all the important items of the trade, e.g., machinery and mill work, galvanized sheets and plates, and cigarettes, and especially under cotton goods, which receded by Rs. 10·73 lakhs. On the export side her takings shrank in value by 29 per cent., from Rs. 27,03·17 lakhs to Rs. 19,02·30 lakhs. The shrinkage was due to smaller demands under practically all the heads, and more particularly under jute, tea, shellac and linseed.

In the trade with the British Dominions, the shrinkage in the imports, as shown in the above table, was due to less supplies of salt by Aden, cocoanut oil by Ceylon, lac, tin and betelnuts by the Straits Settlements, boots and shoes by Canada, and wheat and raw wool by Australia. In the export side the shrinkage in value was mainly due to a decline in the demands of rice by the Bahrein Islands, Ceylon and Mauritius, jute by the Straits Settlements, Ceylon, Hongkong, Natal, Canada and Australia, drugs and medicines by Hongkong, tea by Canada, and linseed by Australia.

Europe.

314. The trade with European countries also fell off to a considerable extent. It declined on the import side from Rs. 11,41·53 lakhs to Rs. 8,13·05 lakhs, and on the export side from Rs. 26,26·32 lakhs to Rs. 15,10·77 lakhs. But for a very slight increase in the case of Russia, the imports from all the countries in Europe declined. The contraction was most marked in the supplies of hardware, zinc, mineral oil, and miscellaneous articles by Germany; machinery and hardware by Sweden; paper, pasteboard and wood-pulp by Norway; cotton piecegoods by the Netherlands; iron and steel by Belgium; liquors by France; and cotton twists and yarns, and coloured piecegoods by Italy. The only item to show a decided improvement was aniline dyes from Germany. Imports of paper-making materials from Sweden also improved slightly. The decline on the export side was due largely to a drop in the shipments of jute, hides and skins, linseed, lac, and manganese ores. The decline most in evidence was in regard to the supplies of jute to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy and Spain; of lac to Germany, Belgium and France; of hides and skins to Germany, and Belgium; of raw hides to Italy;

of raw skins to France; and, of linseed to France. In spite of this, there were improved shipments of jute to Russia and Norway; of tea to Russia; hides and skins to the Netherlands; and linseed to the Netherlands and Belgium.

315. The year also recorded a general shrinkage in the trade with Asiatic countries, the imports from which declined in value from Rs. 16,72·32 lakhs to Rs. 11,30·36 lakhs, and the exports to which declined from Rs. 10,92·27 lakhs to Rs. 7,06·33 lakhs. The loss on the import side consisted mainly of Rs. 165 lakhs in sugar from Java; of Rs. 31 lakhs in lubricating oil from Dutch Borneo; of Rs. 20 lakhs in kerosene oil from Persia; of Rs. 10 lakhs in cotton twists and yarns from China; of Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 28 lakhs in glass and glassware, and hosiery respectively from Japan, over and above this there was a loss of Rs. 278 lakhs in coloured piecegoods from Japan. Boots and shoes were practically the only items the imports of which from Japan improved appreciably by about Rs. 23 lakhs. The loss on the export side was due in the main to a loss of Rs. 30 lakhs in the shipments of jute to Siam; of Rs. 14 lakhs and Rs. 34 lakhs in the supplies of opium and jute respectively to Indo-China. These losses were further augmented by Rs. 12 lakhs and Rs. 32 lakhs in the shipments of jute to the Philippines and China respectively, and by Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 17 lakhs in the exports of lac and linseed to Japan; and lastly by the huge losses of Rs. 94 lakhs and Rs. 81 lakhs in the shipments of pig iron and jute respectively to the last named country. These losses were, however, recouped to some extent by China improving her purchases of paraffin wax and tea, by about Rs. 12 lakhs each. Asia.

316. While the trade with all the European countries was subdued, there was an all-round improvement in the trade with Africa, due to imports advancing from Rs. 30·25 lakhs to Rs. 42·20 lakhs, and exports from Rs. 3,24·85 lakhs to Rs. 3,49·52 lakhs. The improvement in the import trade, which advanced by about 40 per cent., was due to improved business under practically all heads. The improvement in exports, which advanced by about 8 per cent., was due to shipments of linseed to Egypt expanding by about Rs. 1·05 lakhs, and of paraffin wax to Portuguese East Africa by Rs. 15 lakhs. These improvements were, however, partly neutralised by a decline in the value of shipments of tea and jute to Egypt by Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 54 lakhs respectively, and in the value of shipments of jute manufactures to Portuguese East Africa by Rs. 13 lakhs. Africa.

317. The contraction in the trade with the United States was due, on the import side, to less supplies by that country of kerosene oil, tobacco, and motor vehicles, and, on the export side, to a America.

decline in the shipments to that country of hides and skins, lac, mica, and raw jute and jute manufactures. The last named item alone accounted for a loss of Rs. 908 lakhs.

The contraction in the trade with South America and the adjoining countries was due to a decline in the shipments of raw jute to Brazil by about Rs. 30 lakhs, of gunny cloth to the Argentine Republic by about Rs. 333 lakhs, and of gunny bags to Chili and Cuba by about Rs. 77 lakhs, and Rs. 71 lakhs respectively.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1930-31.]

318. The total trade of Calcutta with other maritime provinces and non-British Indian ports also declined considerably in value, from Rs. 31,89·18 lakhs to Rs. 26,59·02 lakhs. This falling off was due to a shrinkage in imports by about Rs. 3 crores, and in exports by about Rs. 2 crores.

Imports.

319. The total value of the articles imported into the port of Calcutta from other Indian ports (both British and non-British) declined from Rs. 18,50·39 lakhs to Rs. 15,40·02 lakhs. Practically the whole of this loss was suffered by Burma, and the slight losses, which the non-British Indian ports and the other Indian ports sustained were very nearly neutralised by the gains of Bombay, Sind and Madras. Imports from Burma declined in the total value from Rs. 10,57·35 lakhs to Rs. 7,19·33 lakhs. This shrinkage was due largely to the imports of rice from that country declining by Rs. 1,19·40 lakhs, and of fresh vegetables by about Rs. 12·31 lakhs. The decline was further accelerated by a contraction in her supplies of stick lac by Rs. 54·04 lakhs, and of mineral oil by nearly Rs. 82·36 lakhs. Her supplies of timber also dropped by about Rs. 41·4 lakhs. The drop in the imports from other Bengal ports and the non-British Indian ports was from Rs. 16·08 lakhs to Rs. 12·13 lakhs, and from Rs. 85·51 lakhs to Rs. 70·54 lakhs, respectively. The decline in both these cases was due to a general falling off in the imports under practically all the heads. The most noticeable decline in the imports from the non-British Indian ports was under pepper by about Rs. 13·91 lakhs. The only item to show some improvement was cocoanut oil, which advanced by about Rs. 11·54 lakhs. Imports from Bombay improved from Rs. 3,31·14 lakhs to Rs. 3,64·57 lakhs. This was due to an advance in her supplies of cotton twist and yarn by Rs. 8·42 lakhs, and of grey

cotton piecegoods by Rs. 55·06 lakhs; but this was partly neutralised by her loss of Rs. 15·55 lakhs in groundnut oil. By a gain of Rs. 6·57 lakhs in her supplies of rape seed, Sind improved her share of the trade from Rs. 22·51 lakhs to Rs. 26·57 lakhs. Madras also advanced her share from Rs. 3,33·73 lakhs to Rs. 3,41·49 lakhs by improving her supplies of grey cotton piecegoods by Rs. 14·96 lakhs and of gram by Rs. 2·63 lakhs, notwithstanding the loss of Rs. 10·46 lakhs which she suffered in raw cotton.

320. The export trade of Calcutta also contracted to the extent of about two crores of rupees in value, from Rs. 13,38·79 lakhs to Rs. 11,90·00 lakhs. The decline was mainly the result of less exports to all the ports and particularly to Burma, the exports to which declined from Rs. 8,03·28 lakhs to Rs. 6,76·82 lakhs. The other decreases of note were in the case of Bombay, from Rs. 2,36·04 lakhs to Rs. 1,66·47 lakhs, and of non-British Indian ports, from Rs. 28·48 lakhs to Rs. 17·14 lakhs. **Exports.**

The decline in the value of total shipments as noted in the foregoing paragraph was due to a general falling off in the exports under all the principal items of trade. Due to a general shrinkage in the demand, exports of coal and coke declined by Rs. 23·21 lakhs. The demand for wheat flour also contracted by Rs. 12·07 lakhs, Burma being responsible for practically the whole of this loss. Exports of matches, due mainly to Madras curtailing her requirements by about Rs. 5·86 lakhs, dropped by Rs. 6·82 lakhs. Shipments of iron and betelnuts fell by Rs. 7·69 lakhs and Rs. 7·90 lakhs, due primarily to Burma's takings contracting by Rs. 8·7 lakhs and Rs. 8·05 lakhs. Shipments of tea declined by Rs. 12·73 lakhs, the loss falling mostly to Burma, and the non-British Indian ports. Under gunny bags the total loss amounted to Rs. 1,11·39 lakhs, Burma being responsible for one-half of this amount, and Bombay for a third of the balance. Shipments of gunny cloth, due to Bombay's share declining by Rs. 18·54 lakhs, contracted by Rs. 22·82 lakhs. Due mainly to a contraction in the demand from Burma by Rs. 6·33 lakhs, the total exports of tobacco manufactured fell by Rs. 6·49 lakhs. There was also considerable falling off in the re-exports of some of the foreign merchandise, prominent amongst them being cotton twist and yarn to Burma by Rs. 3·25 lakhs, grey piecegoods to Burma by Rs. 3·88 lakhs, and coloured piecegoods by Rs. 5·16 lakhs to Burma. In spite of all these losses, shipments of grain to Madras improved by Rs. 4·69 lakhs, and of pulse to Burma by Rs. 12·07 lakhs. The other items to record some improvement were wrought tin, and cotton twist and yarn. The shipments of both these commodities to Burma advanced by Rs. 9·86 lakhs and Rs. 4·43 lakhs respectively.

Calcutta Port Trust (1930-31).

Port and port approaches.

321. The Middleton, which is the outermost bar, was the shoalest or governing bar for 327 days against 243 days in 1929-30. The depth below datum varied between 14 feet 9 inches and 13 feet 3 inches, the latter being in the month of January. The shoaling of the Eastern Gut bar during the deteriorative season in 1931 was more severe than in any year since 1906. On one day the depth on the Eastern Gut below datum was only 9 feet, but 10 feet 6 inches was available on the Western Gut, which is an alternative channel, and on the following day the Eastern Gut deepened to 11 feet. It was the governing bar for 31 days. Ninan Reach, Fulta Bight and Falta Reach were affected by seasonal deterioration but never interfered with the draft of vessels. Royapur bar was again troublesome but, on the other hand, Moyapore bar was exceptionally stable throughout the year. The channel between Calcutta and Uluberia has now been lit and Uluberia Reach can be used instead of Garden Reach as a ship's first place of anchorage after leaving her loading berth.

Trade.

322. The total number of vessels which entered the port was 1,318 with a nett tonnage of 4,381,953 against 1,496 vessels with a nett tonnage of 4,985,999 in the previous year. The total tonnage of goods handled at the jetties, docks, etc., was 8,728,264 tons against 10,871,166 tons in the preceding year.

Revenue.

323. The financial position of the Trust was affected by the severe slump. The income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,83,73,490 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,34,74,486. There was therefore a deficit of Rs. 51,00,996 at the close of the year.

Capital.

324. The year opened with a balance on capital account of about Rs. 9½ lakhs. During the year a 6¼ per cent. loan for Rs. 60 lakhs, repayable in 10 years with option to repay at any time after 5 years, was issued under the authority of the Local Authorities Loan Act. Arrangements were also made to borrow from Messrs. Coutts and Company to the extent of £500,000. A sum of Rs. 60 lakhs was required to repay the money borrowed from the Imperial Bank of India during the preceding year. Approximately Rs. 62½ lakhs were spent during the year on capital works.

Howrah Bridge.

325. The year opened with a debit balance on revenue account of Rs. 1,41,279. The income amounted to Rs. 3,61,349 and the expenditure to Rs. 4,41,717. The year therefore closed with a debit balance of Rs. 2,21,647. The total indebtedness of the bridge to the Port Commissioners was increased to Rs. 2,82,738. The bridge was opened on 276 occasions and 4,970 vessels passed through it during the year.

Inland Steam Vessels Act, I of 1917.

Surveys.

326. Three hundred and thirteen steam vessels and 80 motor vessels were surveyed at Calcutta and 151 steam vessels and 74 motor vessels at Chittagong. The survey fees realised amounted to Rs. 37,245-6 and Rs. 21,018-12 at Calcutta and Chittagong respectively.

Examinations.

327. Three hundred and eighty-seven candidates were examined at Calcutta for certificates of competency as engineers, engine-drivers, etc. Of these 103 passed. Twenty-four passed out of 86 candidates examined at Chittagong. Of 381 candidates examined at Calcutta for Master's certificates only 37 passed.

CHAPTER IX.—PUBLIC WORKS AND IRRIGATION.

Public Works.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.

Establishment.

328. The Electrical Circle scheme has been in operation from 1st May 1930 and is running smoothly. Arrangements are being made in consultation with the Selection Board to recruit an officer for the Western (Electrical) Division. The new Bengal Senior Service of Engineers came into being with effect from 1st May 1930. With its introduction posts in the Indian Service of Engineers are being abolished, as and when they fall vacant, and replaced by posts in the new service. Three posts of Executive Engineer and seven posts of Assistant Engineer of the I.S.E. have already been abolished, resulting in the creation of three posts of Executive Engineer and three posts of Assistant Executive Engineer in the B.S.S.E. and four posts of Assistant Engineer in the B.E.S. The posts of Assistant Executive Engineer of the B.S.S.E. are reserved for Europeans, who are recruited by the Local Government through the High Commissioner for India. For the European side B.S.S.E. arrangements were made to recruit from England on contract two officers with the object of ultimately absorbing them into the cadre of Assistant Executive Engineers in the B.S.S.E. The question of terminating their contracts with Government and appointing them to the B.S.S.E. is under consideration. A third European officer has recently been appointed as Assistant Executive Engineer in that service. The question of filling up vacancies in the B.E.S. is engaging attention. The services of Mr. W. B. Cairns, who was appointed Executive Engineer and Inspector of Works for the construction of the new Council Chamber building, were extended to the end of June 1931. On completion the 1st Calcutta Division took over the maintenance of this building.

Revenue and expenditure.

329. The revenue realised during the year amounted to Rs. 18·17 lakhs, of which Rs. 10·36 lakhs were provincial. The expenditure, including expenditure on communications (Rs. 38·69 lakhs) totalled Rs. 136·91 lakhs, including about Rs. 20·71 lakhs for establishment, tools and plant. Of this total Rs. 9·42 lakhs were for central works, Rs. 11·40 lakhs for provincial works (reserved) and Rs. 71·06 lakhs for provincial works (transferred).

Rs. 1·07 lakhs were expended on contribution works and Rs. 2·79 lakhs on grants-in-aid and Rs. 20·46 lakhs on "60—Civil Works not charged to revenue."

330. The following works were completed:— Central works buildings.

Wireless station buildings at Tollygunge; purchase of a plot of land with buildings for the establishment of an upper air observatory at Dum-Dum; extension of the photo printing room and extension of the negative studio in the photo litho office, Calcutta; Head Signaller's quarters in the post office compound at Raniganj; Head Signaller's quarters and a tiffin room for the clerks attached to the Post and Telegraph office at Asansol; additions and alterations to the Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Kushtia; combined Post and Telegraph office building with Postmaster's quarters at Jalapahar, additions and alterations to the Sub-Postmaster's quarters attached to the Post office building at Kalimpong.

The following works were started and are in progress:—

Combined Post and Telegraph office with Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Jhargram; special repairs to the Sat Gumbuz at Bagerhat and wireless station buildings at Chittagong.

331. Rupees 51·32 lakhs were spent under "Transferred" head and Rs. 5·36 lakhs under "Reserved" head. Education buildings accounted for Rs. 5·85 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 11·78 lakhs, buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other Civil Works Rs. 39·05 lakhs. Provincial buildings.

Of the several works completed, the more important ones were the following:—

Medical school hospital at Burdwan, Medical school at Jalpaiguri; Medical school at Chittagong; hostel and Superintendent's quarters for the Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca; additional accommodation for the madrassa at Rajshahi; buildings for the new Police lines at Bogra; additions and alterations to the old Eye Infirmary, Medical College, Calcutta, for converting it into an outdoor department; purchase of premises No. 5 and 6, Government Place West, from the Government of India for the construction of new buildings to accommodate the servants of His Excellency the Governor; additions and alterations to the buildings purchased in the Cantonment at Dum-Dum to make them suitable for the accommodation of the detachment of the Eastern Frontier Rifles; additions and alterations to the buildings known

as the Ammunition Factory at Dum-Dum to convert the same into a temporary special jail south and north; electrical installation in Dum-Dum special jails south and north; additions and alterations to the Buxa Cantonment for accommodating detenus; additions and alterations to some buildings of the old Mental Hospital at Berhampore for converting them into a special jail; special jail at Hijli; additional special jail at Hijli, (some additional works are still in progress); converting the special jail at Hijli for housing of detenus; residence for the Collector of Pabna; record room for the settlement records at Malda; additions and alterations to the Albert Victor Leper Asylum, Gobra, to provide accommodation for the compounders and Italian Sisters; additions and alterations in the Collector's court buildings and settlement buildings at Suri; additions and alterations to the Munsif's court at Contai; extension of the Leper ward in the Midnapore Central Jail; Guru Training school at Katwa; Civil Surgeon's residence at Burdwan; new barrack for the constables of the Goari Town outpost at Krishnagar; combined armoury and a clothing godown inclusive of an office room in the Reserve Police lines at Asansol; extension of the Sadar Registration office at Khulna; extension of the Sadar Registration office at Mymensingh; improvements to the roof of the temporary Government House, Dacca; new Police hospital with subsidiary buildings at Jessore; improvements to the Police hospital buildings in the Police lines, Dinajpore; canteen building in the Reserve Police lines at Bloomfield in Darjeeling; new segregation ward in the compound of the Police lines at Rajshahi; quarters No. I for an Armed Sub-inspector in the Police lines at Jalpaiguri; extra barrack for the accommodation of male under-trial prisoners in the sub-jail at Netrokona; quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon in Jalpaiguri Jail; improvements to the jail at Bogra; new female ward in the Malda Sub-Jail; raising the land for the proposed Medical school at Barisal; dispensary and quarters for the Principal and a latrine for the Comilla Survey School at Mainamati; residence for the Civil Surgeon at Malda (now to be occupied by the Settlement Officer); special Veterinary Dispensary and Inspector's quarters at Jalpaiguri; record room for the Collectorate at Pabna; residence for the Civil Surgeon at Rajshahi; quarters for the Superintendent of Excise and Salt, Rangpur; improvements to the Superintendent's quarters attached to the B. G. Technical School at Rangpur; improvements to the Industrial buildings and Hostel Superintendent's quarters attached to the Edward Industrial School at Bogra; combined office and quarters for the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officers at Bogra; combined office and quarters of the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officer at Malda; electric installation in the married Sergeant's quarters,

Lalbazar, Calcutta; electric installation in Government buildings at Rangpur (practically completed); rewiring of the electric installation at the Baker Madrassa.

The erosion of the Noakhali Khal necessitated the dismantlement of the Girls' school and the erection of a temporary school in the Collector's Court compound.

The following works were in course of construction at the end of the year:—

Moslem Institute; Madrassa College; extension of the Victoria Hospital, including construction of nurses' quarters at Darjeeling; Medical school at Barisal, (bricks were being collected); new civil court buildings at Asansol; Police Section House at Barrabazar; Traffic Police Barrack at Porabazar (nearly completed); settlement buildings at Chinsura; residential quarters for the wireless operator and menials of the Direction Finding Station at Tollygunge (nearing completion); extension of the Eden Hospital, Medical College (building work completed with few exceptions); extension of the record room attached to the Sadar Registration office at Midnapore; quarters for the Sub-Registrar at Arambagh; water connection to the district jail at Suri; anatomical museum and lecture hall attached to the Medical School at Burdwan; quarters for the second and third officers at Gopalganj; additions and alterations to the sub-jail at Satkhira; additions and alterations to the sub-jail at Jhenidah; installation of electric lights, fans, lifts and pumps in the Eden Hospital extension, Calcutta.

The Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal.

332. During the year the Consulting Architect prepared and supplied drawings for 34 projects. He also regularly inspected works under construction and expended a considerable amount of time in giving advice on proposed building work for which no drawings were prepared.

Communications.

333. The following works were completed during the year:—

(1) Additions and alterations to Auckland Road, Government Place West, and Northbrook Road on the Calcutta Maidan.

(2) Widening and improving the Grand Trunk Road from 7 3/8th mile to 19 7/8th mile at Paltaghat.

(3) Reconstruction of the bridge over the Bhalukhola in Darjeeling.

(4) Painting the surface of the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road, first ten miles; Lebong Road, 1st and 2nd miles; Rishi Road, 2nd mile; Siliguri-Sivoke Road, 2½ miles; Dacca-Chittagong Trunk Road, 95th mile; Agrabad Road, Chittagong, 2nd mile and some portions of the Purana Paltan Road, Dacca.

(5) Strengthening of certain bridges on the Hilli-Balurghat Road.

(6) Replacing of the existing wooden bridges on the Tandu Forest Road by permanent structures.

(7) Reconstruction of the bridge in the 5th mile of the Latiguri-Mainaguri Road.

The following works were in progress:—

(1) Improvement of the Grand Trunk Road, South, from the south approach of the Chandmari bridge to the junction of Telkalghat Road.

(2) Improvement of the Calcutta-Jessore Road from Calcutta to Barasat.

(3) Improvement of the Diamond Harbour Road (excepting the portion lying within the limits of the Corporation of Calcutta). There was an expenditure of Rs. 1,66,999 up to the end of March 1931 on this work. The sanctioned estimated cost of the project amounts to Rs. 6,70,000.

(4) Construction of an approach road to the railway bridge at Bally from Barrackpore Trunk Road to Hastie Road.

(5) Improvement of the Grand Trunk Road from the Bally Khal bridge to the boundary of French Chandernagore.

(6) Improvement of the metalled surface of the Grand Trunk Road from the 120th mile to the 124th mile.

(7) Widening the metalled width of the Grand Trunk Road from the 138th to the 149th mile.

(8) Construction of a reinforced concrete bridge over the Teesta river at Teesta Bazar in the district of Darjeeling.

(9) Additions and alterations to the bridge in the 7th mile of the Alipur-Kumargram road.

Special repairs to the roads in the Darjeeling division were practically completed. Special repairs to the roads and bridges in the Duars were also carried out. Arboricultural operations on some of the roads in the Duars were carried out as far as funds permitted.

Civil aviation.

334. An additional plot of land measuring 71 bighas 14 cottas was acquired in connection with the aviation ground at Dum-Dum. Acquisition of land for and preparation of a landing ground at Chittagong was in progress.

335. The installation of electric lights and fans in the military medical students' quarters, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, was completed during the year. Metalling the approach road and cutting a catch-water drain on the military landing ground at Asansol and the preparation of a military landing ground at Dacca were also completed during the year. Work on the construction of a Staff Sergeant's quarters for the Dacca University Training Corps at Dacca was in progress. Military.

336. The construction of roadways and footpaths on the railway bridge at Bally was in progress. Contribution work.

RAILWAYS.

337. The following light railways are under the control of this Government in so far as provision for their construction and management was made by provincial legislation. Administration.

	Gauge.		Length in miles.
	Ft.	In.	
1. Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2	0	51·07
2. Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar to Tribeni)	2	6	33·27
3. Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2	0	43·87
4. Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway	2	0	19·75
5. Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway	2	6	52·24
Total			200·20

All other railways in the province are under the direct control of the Government of India.

338. The total mileage of railways on 31st March 1931 was the same as on 31st March 1930, viz., 3,411·63 miles. Mileage.

339. During the year no surveys were sanctioned by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board). Surveys.

340. The construction of the Kalukhali-Bhatiapara Railway with a branch from Madhukhali to Kamarkhali was pushed on during the year. Good progress was also made on the Calcutta Chord Railway, including the bridge over the river Hooghly at Bally. New construction.

341. The ropeway from Kalimpong to Riyang in the district of Darjeeling was opened to the public carriage of goods. By this means the carriage of goods from Kalimpong to the Teesta Valley extension of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway has been greatly facilitated. Ropeways.

Irrigation Department.

General.

Capital expenditure.

342. The total capital expenditure of the department in the year 1930-31 was nearly Rs. 19 lakhs after deducting recoveries amounting to Rs. 3,60,358.

New projects.

343. The only important new projects under construction during the year under report were (1) the Damodar canal, which is an Irrigation work designed to supply water to about 200,000 acres of land in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly; (2) the Bakreswar project a small irrigation work in the district of Birbhum which was nearly completed during the year; and (3) the construction of locks and sluices on the lower Kumar river which forms part of the Madaripore Bil route and provides a short cut for steamer traffic from Calcutta to East Bengal and Assam.

List of important works administratively approved.

344. Lack of funds rendered it impossible to carry out any of the other major schemes which are ready for execution, or even to investigate, excepting in a few cases, the numerous problems which await solution. The following is a list of important works which have been administratively approved after investigation:—

(1) Re-excavation of the Alaipur Khal (Khulna).

(2) Berai irrigation project (Birbhum).

(3) Satkahonia irrigation scheme (Burdwan).

(4) Raising the Damodar left embankment from 0 to 4 miles (Burdwan).

(5) Construction of a sluice at Kalinagar (Midnapore).

(6) Widening the Burhani Khal (Bakarganj).

(7) Construction of paved escape in the Cossye embankment.

(8) Kowri and Champa Khal Irrigation Scheme known as Jhargram Project (Midnapore).

(9) Dolai Khal scheme (Dacca).

(10) Constructing a sluice at Baitgarh in the 11th mile of the Shamchak embankment S.D. No. 40 (Midnapore).

Revenue expenditure.

345. The expenditure on revenue account during the year amounted to about Rs. 28½ lakhs of rupees, of which about Rs. 2¾ lakhs was spent on irrigation works proper, the principal items being the Midnapore and the Eden canals. The expenditure on the Midnapore canal was Rs. 2,14,682, which included Rs. 34,159

for the construction of a Stoney's shutter in the Midnapore weir. The rest of the expenditure was on navigation, embankment and drainage works. The expenditure on navigation was mainly for maintenance of steamer and boat routes from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam and for reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta canals, to the cost of which the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Calcutta Corporation contribute in certain cases where improved bridges are required. The expenditure on the Sundarbans steamer route was heavy (above Rs. 4 lakhs), owing mainly to the cost of dredging and of repairs to dredgers, that on the Madaripore Bil route was nearly Rs. 3 lakhs and that on the bridges over the Calcutta canals about Rs. 1½ lakhs. There was also an expenditure of Rs. 27,000 on silt clearance of the Hijli Tidal Navigation Canal.

346. The following is a list of important works under execution or in charge of the Irrigation Department:— List of important works under execution or in charge of the department.

(1) Construction of the Damodar canal project.

(2) Maintaining the Calcutta and Eastern canals.

(3) Maintaining Tolly's Nala and Kewrapukur Khal.

(4) Maintaining the Sundarbans steamer route.

(5) Maintaining the Mogra Hat drainage project.

(6) Construction of the Dhutkhali sluice.

(7) Maintaining the Midnapore Canal.

(8) Maintaining the Hijli Tidal Canal.

(9) Maintaining the Orissa Coast Canal.

(10) Maintaining the Eden Canal.

(11) Maintaining the Amta drainage project.

(12) Remodelling the Hoorhoora Khal.

(13) Maintaining the Rajapur and Burrojola drainage works.

(14) Maintaining the Dankuni drainage works.

(15) Maintaining the Madaripur Bil route.

(16) Maintaining the Lower Kumar river.

(17) Construction of locks and sluices in the Madaripur and lower Kumar rivers.

(18) Maintaining the Arool Bil drainage works.

(19) Dredging the river Attrabanka.

(20) Maintaining Bulee Bhil drainage works.

(21) Maintaining the inner and the outer boat routes.

(22) Constructing and maintaining the brick mattress at Serajganj.

(23) Construction of the Gobra Nala Cut.

(24) Bandalling the Bhagirathi river.

(25) Maintaining the Sarda revetment.

(26) Construction of the Bakreswar canal.

(27) Maintaining the Amjore weir.

(28) Maintaining the Salbund weir.

(29) Maintaining 1,255 miles of embankments in the districts of 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Burdwan, Hooghly, and Tippera.

(30) Conservancy of the Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo.

(31) Training the Mahananda river.

(32) Bandalling the Dhalleswari and Buriganga rivers.

The last three works are carried out by the Joint Steamer Companies on behalf of this department.

Revenue receipt.

347. The revenue receipts showed a decrease due in most cases to unfavourable economic conditions. For instance, the estimated value of goods carried by the Calcutta and Eastern canals was Rs. 421 lakhs as against Rs. 618 lakhs, the annual average for the preceding triennium. The tonnage came to 6½ lakhs as against the average of over 7 lakhs. The capital and revenue accounts include receipts on account of hire earned by the dredger "Ronaldshay" now working for the Government of India in the Andamans. This amounted to Rs. 4,75,309 altogether during the year.

Brick mattress at Sirajganj.

348. One of the most difficult problems with which this department has to deal is the protection of towns from erosion of the great rivers. Only when circumstances are favourable and the expenses not prohibitive, it is possible to achieve success in this direction. In the year under report a brick mattress was constructed at Sirajganj to protect the town from erosion and the result was for the time being successful.

Canals (Irrigation and Navigation).

Capital and revenue accounts.

349. The transactions of the department for the year are shown in the following statements, in so far as they relate to irrigation and navigation works:—

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1930-31.	Expenditure to end of 1930-31.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1931.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Works for which capital and revenue accounts are kept.				
A—Irrigation works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	80,51,475	22,24,928	66,49,711	14,01,764
Indirect	2,54,102	31,342	93,830	1,60,272
Total ..	83,05,577	22,56,270	67,43,541	15,62,036
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	83,06,728	....	83,06,728	....
Indirect	1,85,325	....	1,85,325	....
Total ..	84,92,053	....	84,92,053	....
B—Navigation works.				
(1) Productive—				
Direct	2,49,49,000	2,231	13,92,949	2,35,56,051
Indirect	5,26,000	29	46,283	4,79,717
Total ..	2,54,75,000	2,260	14,39,232	2,40,35,768
(2) Unproductive—				
Direct	3,27,02,125	3,60,303	3,15,24,439	11,77,686
Indirect	3,71,395	945	5,71,147	−1,99,752
Total ..	3,30,73,520	−3,59,358	3,20,95,586	9,77,934

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Works for which both capital and revenue accounts are kept.					
A—Irrigation works.					
Unproductive ..	2,17,341	2,13,900	782	2,14,682	2,659
B—Navigation works.					
Unproductive ..	8,38,603	13,15,852	8,621	13,24,473	−4,85,870
Total ..	10,55,944	15,29,752	9,403	15,39,155	−4,83,211

Receipts and Expenditure on works for which neither capital nor revenue accounts are kept.

Works for which no capital accounts are kept.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
A—Irrigation works	41,858	..
B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works	1,89,649	..
A—Irrigation works	..	60,572
B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works	..	12,36,037
Total ..	2,31,507	12,96,609
Total receipts of the department during 1930-31	(a) 12,87,451	..
Total expenditure of the department including capital outlay of Rs. 18,99,172(c) during 1930-31 ..	..	(b) 47,34,936

	Rs.
(a) Irrigation works	2,59,199
Navigation, embankment and drainage works	10,28,252
	12,87,451
(b) Irrigation works	25,31,524
Navigation, embankment and drainage works	22,03,412
	47,34,936 (including Rs. 14,78,828 for establishment).
(c) Irrigation	22,56,270
Navigation, etc., works	−3,57,098
	18,99,172

Statement of areas irrigated.

350. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1930:—

	Midnapore Canal.			Eden Canal.		
	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.	Kharif including hot weather.	Rabi.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1930 ..	67,075	727	67,802	21,821	353	22,174
For 1930-31	51,541	..	51,541	20,517	475	20,992

351. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year:— Statement showing lengths of canals.

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
	Miles.	Miles.
Main canal	53·00	27·5
Branch canals	16·75	..
Distributaries including minor village channels ..	254·54	17·6
Navigation channels	69·75	..

352. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during 1930-31 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1930:— Statement of traffic.

	Midnapore Canal.		Hijli Tidal Canal.		Calcutta and Eastern Canals.	
	Average of triennium ending March 1930.	For the year 1930-31.	Average of triennium ending March 1930.	For the year ending 1930-31.	Average of triennium ending March 1930.	For the year 1930-31.
Length of open canals in miles	69¾	69¾	49¾	49¾	834	834
Receipts .. Rs.	41,476	34,731	57,314	55,971	4,27,713	4,07,476
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement in tons ..	255,823	175,334	142,039	140,207	1,077,441	871,558
Estimated weight of cargo in tons	28,165	25,286	37,287	36,918	716,926	643,459
Estimated value of goods Rs.	42,31,944	32,72,460	57,14,429	34,98,994	6,18,06,039	4,21,78,916
Estimated value of rafts Rs.	14,288	3,609	668	1,225	32,91,235	19,39,616

	Sundarbans Steamer Route.		Madaripur Bil Route.		Orissa Coast Canal.	
	Average of the triennium ending March 1930.	For the year 1930-31.	Average of the triennium ending March 1930.	For the year 1930-31.	Average of the triennium ending March 1930.	For the year 1930-31.
Length of open canals in miles ..	350	350	38	38	54¼	54¼
Receipts .. Rs.	68,693	72,265	3,02,295	3,02,891	18,277	25,608
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement in tons ..	..	..	1,421,283	879,232	75,042	103,064
Estimated weight of cargo in tons ..	..	..	1,091,772	1,052,073	31,480	28,922
Estimated value of goods .. Rs.	..	..	14,52,06,932	13,88,53,349	37,10,561	32,07,490
Estimated value of rafts .. Rs.	..	..	16,597	15,436	2,488	2,845

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

Expenditure.

353. The expenditure on embankments and drainage works including charges for establishment and tools and plant was Rs. 8,14,721 as against Rs. 11,52,118 in the previous year.

Embankments.

354. There were no additions to embankments. The policy of gradually abandoning those embankments which have been found to be injurious by obstructing free drainage of rain water was continued, and a length of 34 miles and 928 feet of embankment was abandoned during the year. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained was 1,255 miles and 1,293 feet. There were no serious floods entailing abnormal repairs during the year.

Works carried out under—
(a) Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

355. The Rajapur, Burrojolla, Howrah and Danconi drainage works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 12,127 against Rs. 21,111 in the previous year.

(b) Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

356. The Magrahat drainage scheme, which was carried out under the provisions of this Act, was maintained at a cost of Rs. 37,839 against Rs. 34,934 in the previous year. Besides this, the Monikhali Veragachi-Madanpur and Arapanch basins were drained satisfactorily during the year.

Summary of year's transactions.

357. The transactions of the year are briefly described in the following summary, which is divided for convenience into two circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works, Midnapore Canal (Unproductive).

Capital outlay.

358. No capital expenditure was incurred on the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct) to the end of the year was Rs. 83,06,728.

Rainfall.

359. The rainfall at Midnapore was 69·45 inches compared with 73·36 inches in the previous year.

Irrigation.

360. The total area irrigated from the canal was 51,541 acres against 59,605 acres in 1929-30. The cash realisation on account of water rates was Rs. 1,58,841, of which Rs. 2,815 were remitted, against Rs. 1,66,687 realised and Rs. 2,258 remitted in the preceding year. The total demand for water rates including arrears of the previous year was Rs. 1,72,726 against Rs. 1,84,951 of the previous year. The decrease in demand is due to the fact that most of the leases lapsed, and were not renewed during the year owing to fall in the price of paddy and to copious and timely rainfall during the year.

361. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 29,020 against Rs. 34,731 in 1929-30. Navigation.

362. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 2,17,341 and Rs. 2,14,682 against Rs. 2,30,927 and Rs. 2,35,740 respectively in the previous year. The net revenue of the year was Rs. 2,659 against Rs. (—) 4,813 in the preceding year. Financial results.

Minor Irrigation Works.

363. The area irrigated from the canal during the year was 20,992 acres as compared with 22,383 acres of the preceding year. The gross revenue derived was Rs. 41,858 against Rs. 45,530 and the working expenses amounted to Rs. 45,307 against Rs. 45,902 in the previous year. Eden Canal.

364. The weir was completed in 1927-28 and was maintained at a cost of Rs. 7,198. The irrigable area is about 700 acres. Amjore Weir.

365. The work was constructed on behalf of the Salbund Irrigation Society, Bankura. The irrigable area is about 1,700 acres. Salbund Weir in the district of Bankura.

Other Irrigation Schemes in Western Bengal.

366. This is a major irrigation scheme designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land, mostly paddy-growing, in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The construction is approaching completion and it is expected that the canal will be partially opened in 1932. The total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 60,97,684 (direct) against the estimated cost of Rs. 75,60,879 (direct). The estimate is under revision. His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to the headworks of the canal on the 17th January 1931. Damodar Canal scheme.

367. The work in connection with the construction of the Bakreswar canal in the district of Birbhum, commenced in 1927, was nearly completed during the year under review, and it was expected that the whole length of the 12 miles of the main canal with distributaries Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6 and 6A covering a length of 7 miles would be ready for operation during the irrigation season. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 2,07,977 and the total to the end of the year was Rs. 5,52,027 against the estimated cost of Rs. 4,90,596 (direct). The area to be irrigated is 10,000 acres. The Bakreswar irrigation scheme.

Major Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (Unproductive).

Hijili Tidal Canal.

368. There was no capital expenditure on the canal during the year. The total capital outlay to the end of the year was Rs. 25,50,805 (direct). The gross revenue and working expenses amounted to Rs. 55,971 and Rs. 91,707 respectively against Rs. 67,668 and Rs. 1,04,286 in the preceding year. The result was a deficit of Rs. 35,736 against a deficit of Rs. 36,618 in the year 1929-30. The fall in revenue was due to the general trade depression and to the closure of Range No. I of the canal from the 24th February to the 23rd May 1930 for silt clearance.

Minor Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

Orissa Coast Canal.

369. The length of the canal within the province is 54½ miles. It is used for navigation only. The gross revenue and working expenses during the year were Rs. 28,099 and Rs. 18,800 respectively against Rs. 32,533 and Rs. 23,982 in the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 9,299 against Rs. 8,551 in the previous year.

Gaighata and Buxi Khal.

370. The khal is a connecting channel between the rivers Rupnarayan and Damodar and is about 7½ miles in length. The khal has been leased out for navigation at Rs. 4,050 per annum for a period of three years.

Nadia rivers.

371. The approximate length of the channels comprising the Nadia rivers is 478½ miles. The rivers were thrown open to free navigation from 1st September 1923. The maintenance charges during the year amounted Rs. 49,929 against Rs. 57,132 in the previous year.

Original Works—Protection of the right bank of the river Jamuna at Serajganj.

372. The work was undertaken to protect Serajganj town from the river Jamuna and comprises a flexible brick mattress 4,000 feet long. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 1,93,449 against the estimated cost of Rs. 2,61,758.

Bhagirathi river.

373. The river Bhagirathi is 106 miles in length from Dhulian on the Ganges to Plassey. There were no great changes in the entrances from Dhulian to Biswanathpur, known as the Faracca channel. Bandalling work from Kaliganj entrance to Jangipur was taken up in October 1930 and completed at a cost of Rs. 9,707 against the estimated amount of Rs. 17,970. The bandalling was done over the worst shoals and the period of training was from the 12th October to 30th November 1930. Bandalling works in the middle of Bhagirathi was taken up in November 1930 when the least depth of water over the shoals was 6 feet. Country boats plied throughout the year from Berhampore to Azimganj. The

lower Bhagirathi river extends from Plassey to Nadia and is 55 miles in length. In this portion of the river no remarkable change was noticed during the year. The highest flood level at Katwa was 42·25 P.W.D. datum on 27th August 1930, against 42·35 on 13th August 1929. Only three shoals, viz., Dewanganj, Matiary and Rukunpur, were trained this year.

Bhairab river.

374. This river is 65 miles in length from its entrance at Lalgolaghat to Muktearpur where it joins the Jalangi river. It has three entrances, viz., Lalgolaghat, Ashariadaha, and Akriganj. The first two admitted flood water of the Ganges during the high flood only. The Akriganj entrance remained open throughout the year. No training work was done in this river, but country boat traffic was maintained throughout the year.

Mathabhanga river.

375. The Mathabhanga river has its offtake from the Ganges at Dyarampur and falls into the Hooghly at Chakdah. No training work was done and there was no change in the course of the river.

Ganges from Rajmahal to Goalundo.

376. The conservancy operations between Rajmahal and Goalundo were carried out this year by the Joint Steamer Companies on a lump sum contract of Rs. 21,000 per annum. The result of this training work was that there was no stoppage of steamer traffic during the dry season and all the steamers navigated without any difficulty. The flood in the river during the year was higher than that of the previous year. The highest readings on the 26th August 1929 and 24th August 1930 were R.L. 58·90 and 60·40 O.M. S.L. respectively.

Mahananda river.

377. The training in this river, which lies in the districts of Rajshahi and Malda was carried out this year by the Joint Steamer Companies on a lump sum contract of Rs. 7,000 per annum. The river was navigable throughout the whole of the dry season.

Discharge observations.

378. Discharge observations were taken at four stations, viz., Jangipur, Berhampore on the Bhagirathi, Kalna on the Hooghly and Hanskhali on the Mathabhanga. The discharges of the tributaries of the Bhagirathi and Hooghly were observed during flood time only. Discharges of the Bhairab-Jalangi and Mathabhanga rivers were observed throughout the whole year.

Gorai river.

379. The Gorai river was surveyed this year as usual but no remarkable change was observed.

Drainage works: Remodelling the Hoorhoora khal.

380. A sum of Rs. 360 was spent on the work during the year under review. The effects of excavation by dredging were watched by taking periodical sections of the khal at selected sites. The khal acted well as a flood drainage outlet.

Surveys and investigations.

381. The names of some of the important surveys carried out during the year are given below:—

(1) Preliminary survey of Dwarkeswar reservoir project in the district of Bankura.

(2) Detailed survey of the Suvankar Danra project in the district of Bankura.

(3) Detailed survey of the Bansloi irrigation scheme in the Birbhum district.

(4) General survey of important rivers and irrigation conditions of the country lying within Birbhum subdivision.

(5) Observing hydraulic condition of the Malda district.

(6) Survey of the Ajoy canal scheme.

(7) Investigation in connection with North Bengal flood.

(8) Gauge and discharge observations of important rivers and streams in the district of Bankura.

(9) Gauge and discharge observations of important rivers and streams in the district of Birbhum.

(10) Survey and investigation in connection with the erosion of the Noakhali Khal.

(11) Survey for the construction of embankments to prevent saline tides of the Kalinadi and Kalyan entering into certain areas of the Kaliganj thana.

(12) Survey in connection with the silted up condition of the Gopakhali Khal.

(13) Investigation and survey for draining Chak Teligati in the district of Khulna.

(14) Survey and investigation for draining the Narnia Bil into the Attrabanka river.

(15) Survey and investigation of Dantbhanga and other bils.

(16) Survey in connection with the experimental boro irrigation works of Chowdanta in Mymensingh.

River floods and breaches.

382. Practically speaking there was no high flood of any considerable magnitude either in the Cossye division or in the Damodar division, although there were some low floods in the rivers Damodar, Selye, Dwarkeswar, old Cossye and the Rupnarayan which were of short duration and were as a rule beneficial to the crops on the banks of the rivers. In the Cossye division 45 cuts were allowed during the year in schedule D embankments and 15 in taccavi embankments. In each case the parties concerned furnished the usual deposit money as security for final closing. In the Damodar division 19 cross dams in the bed of the

rivers and khals and embankments of the Gadghat subdivision were allowed for irrigating the crops by diverting the river water into the fields. In the Nadia rivers division two surreptitious cuts in the Bhagirathi embankment at the 36th and 41st miles were made by the people for admitting flood water into their fields. These were ordered to be kept open for the purpose of helping irrigation.

Southern Circle.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

383. The aggregate length of canals, canalised rivers and channels open to navigation is about 1,184 miles inclusive of the Sundarbans steamer route. There was no expenditure during the year on original works. The navigation receipts from the canals amounted to Rs. 3,65,509 against Rs. 4,08,703 in the previous year. The gross receipts and working expenses amounted to Rs. 4,07,476 and Rs. 4,73,799 respectively against Rs. 4,47,400 and Rs. 5,52,365 in the previous year. The result being a deficit of Rs. 66,323 against a deficit of Rs. 1,84,008 in the previous year. The total expenditure under extensions and improvements during the year amounted to Rs. 1,50,541. The following were the important works on which heavy expenditure was incurred:—

Name of work.	Amount of sanctioned estimate.	Expenditure during the year 1930-31.	Expenditure to end of the year.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
(1) Beliaghatta bridge	5,89,360	16,249	2,57,445	In progress.
(2) Narkeldanga bridge	6,96,400	1,11,816	1,89,884	Ditto.
(3) Chitpur bridge	2,64,000	1,743	1,743	Ditto.
(4) Maniktola bridge	6,27,383	3,350	29,152	Ditto.
(5) Alipur bridge	3,88,000	24,247	29,918	Ditto.
(6) Garia bridge	63,213	186	60,621	Completed.

Bridges Nos. (1) to (5) are being constructed through the agency of the Calcutta Improvement Trust.

Sunderbans steamer route.

384. There was no capital expenditure on the work during the year. The gross revenue and working expenses amounted Rs. 72,265 and Rs. 4,29,215 against Rs. 64,750 and Rs. 1,01,868 respectively, in the previous year, the result being a deficit of Rs. 3,56,950 against a deficit of Rs. 37,118 in the year 1929-30. The heavy working expenses were due to dredging and repairs to the dredger "Foyers."

Madaripur bil route.

385. There were no alterations in the length of the route during the year. The total length of the route between Madhumati and the Urial Khan rivers (including the lower Kumar river) is 38 miles. The total capital expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 1,43,825. The construction of locks and sluices in the Madaripur Bil and the lower Kumar river was practically completed. Mustafapur, Rajair Jalirpar and Bajitpur locks and sluices were put in operation during the year. The gross receipts and working expenses during the year amounted to Rs. 3,02,891 and Rs. 2,95,852 against Rs. 3,41,220 and Rs. 5,37,192 respectively in the previous year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 7,039 against a deficit of Rs. 1,95,972 in the preceding year.

River training works.

386. Bandalling works in the rivers Dhaleswari and Buriganga are undertaken every year to train shoals with the object of maintaining a navigable depth of water during the low water season and also for the purpose of supplying good drinking water to the city of Dacca. The bandalling works were made over to the steamer companies in the year 1929-30 on an annual subsidy of Rs. 17,500. During the year under review the works were carried out successfully by the steamer companies, and steamer services were maintained throughout the year except for a few months in the dry season in the Daraitali channel.

Dredging works.

387. Dredging of shoals was done in the lower Kumar and Attrabanka rivers by the dredgers "Foyers" and "Alexandra." The dredger "Ronaldshay" was engaged on hire throughout the year by the Government of India for filling up unhealthy swamps in the Andamans.

Sanitary and drainage works.

388. The Monikhali, Veragachi-Madanpur, Arapanch and Magrahat basins were drained satisfactorily during the year.

Agricultural works.

389. A small portion of the outer channel of the Dhutkhali sluice was excavated. It will be completed on the acquisition of land. A sum of Rs. 2,222 was spent during the year.

General.

390. The rainfall in the catchment areas of all the rivers during the year was normal and hence irrigation was carried out smoothly. The outturn of crop was also satisfactory and better than that of the previous year. But the general economic conditions of the country were not favourable on account of the general trade depression and fall of prices of all commodities, which also accounted for the decrease in the navigation receipts of the canals of this department.

CHAPTER X.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

391. The total revenue for the year 1930-31 from central heads amounted to Rs. 5,97,56,000 against the actuals of Rs. 6,58,55,000 of 1929-30 as shown in the statement below. The bulk of the fall in revenue as compared with the last year's actuals occurred under the head "Income-tax," due mainly to the slump in trade, particularly in jute, and partly to larger refunds. Owing to a marked decrease in the consumption of imported salt and to fewer vessels visiting the Port of Calcutta the revenue under the heads "Salt" and "Ports and Pilotage" was also much below expectation. The fall in the total receipts would have been larger but for the sale of Nos. 5 and 6, Government Place, the proceeds of which were credited to the head "Civil Works" and for the recovery of certain arrear rents from some officers occupying central Government buildings. Receipts.

Statement of Receipts.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Actuals, 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.
II.—Taxes on income	6,17,68	5,56,86
III.—Salt	1,61	25
X.—Payments from Indian States ..	68	68
XVI.—Interest	10,37	10,31
XVII.—Administration of justice ..	....	4
XX.—Ports and pilotage	21,15	18,66
XXVI.—Miscellaneous departments ..	1,08	1,00
XXVII.—Currency	17	12
XXX.—Civil Works	3,68	7,81
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation	2,03	1,88
XXXV.—Miscellaneous	10	—5
Total ..	6,58,55	5,97,56

392. The total expenditure under central heads during the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,16,56,000 against the actuals of Rs. 1,13,83,000 in the previous year as shown in the statement below. Expenditure.

The census charges incurred in 1930-31 and the growth in pensionary charges mainly account for the increase in expenditure as compared with the actuals of 1929-30.

Statement of Expenditure.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals. 1929-30.	Actuals, 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.
2.—Taxes on income	10,92	11,32
3.—Salt	2,24	2,22
15.—Irrigation	....	25
19.—Interest on ordinary debt	17,28	17,46
20.—Interest on other obligations ..	21,05	20,55
22.—General administration	30	1
23.—Audit	8,97	9,21
24.—Administration of justice	38	40
26.—Police	98	93
27.—Ports and pilotage	15,90	15,24
28.—Ecclesiastical	1,87	1,79
29.—Political	48	40
33.—Public health	88	63
37.—Miscellaneous departments ..	63	2,22
41.—Civil works	9,99	11,05
44.—Territorial and political pensions ..	6,47	6,40
45.—Superannuation allowances and pensions	14,96	16,08
46.—Stationery and printing	3	2
47.—Miscellaneous	50	38
Total ..	1,13,83	1,16,56

Salt.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1930-31.]

Salt credit system.

The number of salt dealers who availed themselves of the credit system of payment of duty on salt fell from 51 to 43. The amount of duty outstanding for adjustment at the end of the year was Rs. 87,01,659 as against Rs. 85,41,964 at the close of the previous year.

Imports.

394. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 17,392,088 maunds as compared with 16,246,737 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 7·05 per cent. Of this the imports into Calcutta and Chittagong were 15,734,634 and 1,657,454 maunds respectively during the year, representing 90·46 and 9·54 per cent. of the total quantity imported, against 91·13 and 8·87 per cent. in the previous year.

395. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 16,197,569 maunds against 15,466,037 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was 1 anna 2 pies less than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 69 against Rs. 83 in the previous year, while that of Port Said salt in Chittagong was Rs. 68 against Rs. 81. Consumption and prices.

Income-tax.

396. The year 1929-30, which was the basis of assessment in 1930-31, was marked by a decline in trade as compared with the previous year. There was a considerable fall in both the export and import trade. Jute, which is the chief source of revenue in Bengal, also fared very badly. The fall in the price of jute reduced the profits of jute companies from Rs. 7·23 to Rs. 6·26 crores. The piecegoods market did not show any improvement. Tea had a record year so far as production was concerned, but overproduction affected the trade adversely. The year was favourable for banking and engineering and for trade in mineral-oil, vegetable-oils, tobacco and biris, but the increase in revenue under these heads failed to counterbalance the loss under jute and under export and import trade. Review of the year.

397. The statement below gives the figures of assessed income for the year 1930-31 as compared with the figures of previous years:— Figures of assessed income.

	Rs.
Standard figure of assessed income for the year 1920-21(revised up to March, 1931) ..	62,30,47,762
Assessed income in—	
1921-22	Not available.
1922-23	47,53,18,672
1923-24	49,21,45,843
1924-25	46,65,74,333
1925-26	50,63,56,689
1926-27	49,40,92,344
1927-28	45,84,67,020
1928-29	53,82,19,707
1929-30	56,65,11,258
1930-31	50,66,30,083

As the figure of assessed income for 1930-31 is still much below that of 1920-21, it is likely to be many years before the Local Government will derive any benefit from Devolution Rule 15.

Collection figures.

398. In 1930-31 the collection was Rs. 3,12,95,842 in income-tax and Rs. 2,30,39,147 in super-tax as compared with Rs. 3,47,48,779 and Rs. 2,54,05,492 respectively in 1929-30. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

B.—Revenue and Finance other than Central—Provincial Finance.

399. The sanctioned estimates for the year 1930-31 provided for a total receipt of Rs. 11,73,30,000 exclusive of an estimated opening balance of Rs. 1,87,27,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 12,60,56,000, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 1,00,01,000 to be carried forward to 1931-32. The actual receipts and expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,57,90,000 and Rs. 12,13,01,000 respectively.

Receipts.

400. The year 1930-31 actually opened with a balance of Rs. 1,94,78,000 against the estimated opening balance of Rs. 1,87,27,000, as the actual revenue and expenditure in 1929-30 fell short of the revised estimate by Rs. 6,11,000 and Rs. 13,62,000 respectively. So with the actual opening balance a receipt of Rs. 13,68,08,000 was anticipated, but the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 12,52,68,000 as shown below:—

	Estimated.	Actuals.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	1,94,78,000	1,94,78,000
Receipts on revenue accounts ..	10,96,54,000	9,66,34,000
Receipts on capital accounts ..	76,76,000	91,56,000
Total ..	13,68,08,000	12,52,68,000

Against the original estimate of Rs. 10,96,54,000 on revenue account, the actuals amounted to Rs. 9,66,34,000, a fall in revenue of Rs. 1,30,20,000.

The above fall occurred almost entirely under the following heads:—

	Rs.
V.—Land revenue	20,55,000
VI.—Excise	47,84,000
VII.—Stamps	43,06,000
VIII.—Forests	5,49,000
IX.—Registration	12,28,000
Total	1,29,22,000

The fall, which was sudden, may partly be ascribed to the subversive political movement started by Congress from practically the beginning of the year, but more to the world depression in trade. The decrease in the total revenue of the province would have been larger but for the adjustment of the grant amounting to Rs. 4,41,000 for the improvement of communications given by the Government of India out of the road development fund by per contra credit to the head "XXX—Civil works" and to the extraordinary receipt of Rs. 2,17,000 on account of the sale of some Government lands. Against the original estimated receipt of Rs. 76,76,000 on capital account, the actual receipts amounted to Rs. 91,56,000. The subvention of Rs. 19,30,000 for the improvement of provincial roads from the road development fund referred to above mainly accounts for the increased receipt.

401. The original estimated expenditure of Rs. 11,76,53,000 on revenue account, which was higher than the actuals of 1929-30, besides providing for normal growth due to incremental pay and for completion of schemes in progress, provided for new schemes involving an immediate recurring expenditure of Rs. 2,21,000 and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 27,43,000 with ultimate recurring liabilities of Rs. 3,72,000 and non-recurring Rs. 36,10,000. The provision for expenditure on new schemes was shared almost equally by the reserved and transferred sides of Government. Owing however to the civil disobedience movement Government had to adopt special measures and the Legislative Council voted supplementary grants of Rs. 24,20,000 under the following heads during the course of the year:— Expenditure.

	Rs.
25.—Jails	10,44,000
26.—Police	8,78,000
41.—Civil works	4,75,000
47.—Miscellaneous	23,000
Total	24,20,000

The total grant available for expenditure during the year was therefore Rs. 12,00,73,000, whereas the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 11,40,86,000, resulting in a saving of Rs. 59,87,000. As soon as it was realised that the estimated revenue for the year would not come up to expectation, Government decided to postpone all expenditure which could be deferred without causing serious administrative inconvenience and was not immediately essential and thereby effected a saving of Rs. 40,68,000. The above retrenchments in expenditure, added to the savings due to the non-utilisation in full of the provisions

for the cost of transmission of landlord's fees, the commutation of pensions, and grants for the Ranchi mental hospitals, account for the bulk of the savings and the other savings were mostly due to the grant under the head "Police" having proved slightly excessive and to savings under the heads "Pay of officers" and "Pay of establishments." In addition to the expenditure mentioned above, the estimate for 1930-31 provided for an expenditure of Rs. 84,03,000 outside the revenue account. The actual expenditure however amounted to Rs. 72,15,000, the savings being mainly due to the fact that the expenditure during the year on the Bally bridge and on the new Council chamber was less than was originally anticipated and to the non-utilisation in full of the provision for loans to district boards for improvement of rural water-supply. The estimated closing balance for 1930-31 was Rs. 1,00,01,000, but the year actually closed with a balance of Rs. 39,67,000 only. The difference is mainly accountable thus: While the actual opening balance was better by Rs. 7,51,000 than the estimated opening balance, the actual receipts fell short of expectation by Rs. 1,15,40,000, whereas the actual expenditure was less by Rs. 47,55,000 only than the sanctioned estimate.

Control of expenditure.

402. With a view to the closer watching of expenditure against sanctioned grants, a uniform system of classification of expenditure by disbursing officers and the Accountant-General, Bengal, was followed during the year.

Statements of Provincial Receipts and Expenditure for 1930-31.

RECEIPTS.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Budget, 1930-31.	Actuals, 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
V.—Land revenue	3,24,74	3,29,48	3,08,93
VI.—Excise	2,26,25	2,28,00	1,80,16
VII.—Stamps	3,91,97	3,56,00	3,12,94
VIII.—Forest	30,52	28,61	23,12
IX.—Registration	31,69	36,00	23,72
IXA.—Scheduled taxes ..	16,29	16,25	13,00
XII.—Subsidised companies ..	1,19	1,10	92
XIII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works for which capital accounts are kept ..	—5,73	—7,40	—4,66
XIV.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works for which no capital accounts are kept ..	3,00	2,43	2,57

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Budget, 1930-31.	Actuals, 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XVI.—Interest	6,14	7,13	4,67
XVII.—Administration of justice ..	18,14	15,92	13,34
XVIII.—Jails and convict settlements ..	10,47	10,60	7,27
XIX.—Police	12,45	11,95	11,60
XX.—Ports and pilotage	59	81	90
XXI.—Education	14,12	14,95	13,40
XXII.—Medical	11,77	8,98	10,23
XXIII.—Public health	1,82	1,43	1,57
XXIV.—Agriculture	6,08	6,38	6,16
XXV.—Industries	6,75	7,11	6,87
XXVI.—Miscellaneous departments ..	23	30	19
XXX.—Civil works	5,25	5,59	10,37
XXXII.—Transfer from Famine Relief Fund	47	50	36
XXXIII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation	1,13	1,23	1,57
XXXIV.—Stationery and printing ..	5,45	5,36	5,16
XXXV.—Miscellaneous	9,98	7,82	9,39
XXXIXA.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the central and provincial Governments ..	....	....	....
XL.—Extraordinary receipts ..	5,06	....	2,17
Receipts in England	5	1	42
Total revenue receipts ..	11,35,87	10,96,54	9,66,34
Famine Relief Fund	61	55	83
Depreciation fund for Government presses	1,38	1,64	1,20
Advances from Provincial Loans Fund, Government of India	16,00	50,20	50,20
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt	6,79	7,23	7,23
Subvention from Central Road Development account	....	....	19,30
Suspense	6,17	6,50	6,45
Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	11,28	10,64	6,35
Total receipts on capital account ..	42,23	76,76	91,56
Total ..	11,78,10	11,73,30	10,57,90
Opening balance in Famine Relief Fund	12,51	12,57	12,65
Other opening balances	2,10,58	1,74,70	1,82,13
Total opening balance ..	2,23,09	1,87,27	1,94,78
Grand Total ..	14,01,19	13,60,57	12,52,68

EXPENDITURE.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Budget, 1930-31.	Actuals, 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
5.—Land revenue	45,10	48,76	45,37
6.—Excise	22,26	22,92	21,80
7.—Stamps	6,22	7,78	5,23
8.—Forest	15,48	17,43	15,18
8A.—Forest capital outlay charged to revenue	1,17	2,59	77
9.—Registration	22,13	22,14	19,95
9A.—Scheduled taxes	15	15	16
14.—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept	18,23	18,16	17,38
15.—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue	13,48	14,79	12,05
15(*1*).—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from famine relief grants	1	2	1
16.—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works	2,42	1,30	1,31
19.—Interest on ordinary debt ..	—8,55	—9,09	—7,00
20.—Interest on other obligations ..	8	5	....
21.—Reduction or avoidance of debt ..	6,79	7,23	7,23
22.—General administration ..	1,24,33	1,29,90	1,25,20
24.—Administration of justice ..	1,07,01	1,08,94	1,06,20
25.—Jails and convict settlements ..	34,45	35,35	44,38
26.—Police	2,09,16	2,15,43	2,20,89
27.—Ports and pilotage	5,05	5,49	5,13
30.—Scientific departments	27	36	34
31.—Education (reserved)	14,11	15,19	14,47
31.—Education (transferred) ..	1,29,54	1,34,71	1,27,34
32.—Medical	55,69	59,84	52,84
33.—Public health	35,45	41,77	37,27
34.—Agriculture	25,32	27,93	25,65
35.—Industries	12,33	13,62	12,19
37.—Miscellaneous departments ..	2,40	2,52	2,37
41.—Civil works	94,55	98,65	1,01,51
43.—Famine relief	46	50	35
45.—Superannuation allowances and pensions	44,96	46,19	45,22
45A.—Commutations of pensions financed from ordinary revenue ..	26,36	17,07	13,07
46.—Stationery and printing ..	23,43	24,59	22,18
47.—Miscellaneous	2,44	3,61	3,66
Expenditure in England	41,21	40,64	41,16
Total expenditure from ordinary revenue	11,33,49	11,76,53	11,40,86

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Budget, 1930-31.	Actuals. 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
52A.—Forest capital outlay not charged to revenue—			
In India	....	....	....
In England	....	....	1
55.—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works (not charged to revenue)—			
In India	19,67	18,91	17,36
In England	20	29	....
60.—Civil works not charged to revenue—			
In India	25,29	29,58	21,24
In England	2	....	2
60B.—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue) ..	....	....	....
Famine Relief Fund	47	50	36
Depreciation fund for Government presses	83	1,40	1,25
Repayment to the Government of India of advances from Provincial Loans Fund	6,79	7,23	7,23
Subvention from central road development account	....	....	4,41
Suspense	6,28	6,84	6,48
Loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	13,37	19,28	13,79
Total expenditure on capital accounts ..	72,92	84,03	72,15
Total expenditure ..	12,06,41	12,60,56	12,13,01
Closing balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	12,65	12,62	13,12
Other closing balances	1,82,13	87,39	26,55
Total closing balance	1,94,78	1,00,01	39,67
Grand Total ..	14,01,19	13,60,57	12,52,68

Stamps.

[Annual statistics of the Stamps Department for the year 1930-31.]

Revenue and charges.

403. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 3,21,50,290 during the year, showing a decrease of Rs. 79,47,489 or 19·8 per cent. on the receipts of 1929-30. There was decrease in receipts both in respect of judicial and non-judicial stamps. The charges during the year were Rs. 13,78,546 against Rs. 15,19,929 of the previous year.

Judicial stamps.

404. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) fell from Rs. 2,82,83,002 in 1929-30 to Rs. 2,23,17,632 in 1930-31. Decreases occurred in all districts but five, viz., Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Chittagong. Marked decreases occurred in Calcutta, in all districts of the Dacca division and also in the districts of Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna. The decreases were mainly on account of a large drop in the number and value of money suits owing to general economic depression.

Non-Judicial stamps.

405. With the exception of two districts only, viz., Khulna and Darjeeling, the revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps showed a decline throughout the province. The revenue fell from Rs. 1,07,97,688 in 1929-30 to Rs. 90,06,961 in 1930-31, showing a decrease of Rs. 17,90,727. Marked decreases occurred in all districts of the Dacca division and in the districts of Tippera and Rangpur. They were generally attributed to depression of trade, resulting in fewer documents being executed, and in some measure to the amended Bengal Tenancy Act, 1929.

Sale of stamps.

406. The number of vendors holding licences to sell stamps and the amount of discount allowed to them fell from 5,799 to 5,634 and from Rs. 3,78,034 to Rs. 2,96,466 respectively, during the year.

Deficient duty.

407. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by civil courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 fell from 1,737 to 1,572 and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases from Rs. 16,791 to Rs. 14,788. The number of cases decided by revenue courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act fell from 3,477 to 2,508 and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 63,474 to Rs. 57,698.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

408. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 494 against 544 in the previous year. Of the 506 persons brought to trial 490 were convicted, the figures for the previous year being 561 and 546 respectively. Fines imposed fell from Rs. 5,331 to Rs. 5,026. Rewards paid to informers decreased from Rs. 3,300 to Rs. 2,999.

Working of section 19-H of the Court-fees Act.

409. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1930-31, including those pending at the beginning of the year, 69·4 per cent. were completely enquired into against 70·8 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion borne by the deficit duty required to the amount originally realised was 65·9 per cent. against 23·8 per cent. in the previous year.

Excise.

Excise licensing boards and advisory committees.

410. The licensing boards for the municipalities of Calcutta, Howrah, Bally and the districts of the 24-Parganas, Dacca, Rangpur and Chittagong worked satisfactorily. In areas outside the above, the majority of the recommendations of the local advisory committees were accepted.

Revenue.

411. The total excise revenue amounted to Rs. 1,80,28,339 against Rs. 2,26,47,923, showing a decrease of Rs. 46,19,584. There was decrease under almost all heads. The largest decrease, amounting to Rs. 27,47,529, occurred under "Total receipts from country spirits," followed by Rs. 13,92,541 under "Total receipts from hemp drugs," Rs. 1,84,698 under "Receipts from country fermented liquors (Pachwai)," Rs. 1,79,585 under "Total receipts from opium," Rs. 1,24,536 under "Tari tree-tax," Rs. 93,794 under "Other receipts from tari" and Rs. 67,271 on account of "Duty on spirits used in manufacture of medicines and on rectified spirits and absolute alcohol used for medicinal purposes." There was an increase of Rs. 1,69,773 under the head "Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and classed as foreign liquors" and an increase of Rs. 32,035 under "Licence fees for sale of beer manufactured in India or elsewhere." The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 6 annas 2 pies against 7 annas 8 pies in the previous year.

Country spirit.

412. During the year the number of shops fell from 931 to 926. The consumption also decreased in all districts except Chittagong, where an increase occurred on account of large issues to shops in tea garden areas. Noticeable decreases occurred in Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Tippera, Howrah, Bogra, Murshidabad, Pabna, Rangpur, Bankura, Khulna, Hooghly and Malda. In all these districts the decrease was due to propaganda and picketing as well as to general economic distress.

Tari.

413. The tree-tax system continued to work satisfactorily in the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. The total number of fermented tari licences decreased from 503 to 488 and the total receipts from Rs. 10,15,297 to Rs. 7,96,967.

Pachwai.

414. The total number of pachwai licences issued was 54,614 as compared with 67,387 in 1929-30. The revenue in licence fees from retail vend shops decreased from Rs. 14,29,265 to Rs. 12,67,247. The decrease was marked in Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly and Murshidabad, and was due to propaganda and picketing. The decrease would have been higher had not the average current price of rice, which governs the taxation, continued at a lower level than in the preceding year.

Foreign liquor.

415. The total number of licences issued for trade and public vend of foreign liquor was 1,533 against 1,423 in the preceding year. The total receipts from licence fees increased from Rs. 3,42,858 to Rs. 3,72,087.

Ganja.

416. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,206 against 1,204 in 1929-30. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 36,61,422 against Rs. 49,49,446 in the previous year, the net decrease amounting to Rs. 12,88,024. The total quantity of ganja consumed was 1,155 maunds against 1,559 maunds in the previous year. Consumption fell in all districts on account of propaganda and picketing as well as general economic depression. Closure and short-time working of mills as well as reduction in the number of mill and factory workers also contributed to the decrease.

Bhang.

417. The total quantity of bhang consumed amounted to 334 maunds against 397 maunds in the previous year. The total revenue from licence fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,71,999 as compared with Rs. 1,96,193 in 1929-30 showing a decrease of Rs. 24,194.

Charas.

418. The total number of retail licences was 34, as in the previous year. The total revenue amounted to Rs. 2,09,363 as compared with Rs. 2,89,686 in 1929-30.

Opium.

419. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of opium was 864 as compared with 855 in the previous year. The total quantity of opium consumed fell from 994 maunds to 885 maunds. The consumption decreased in almost every district, and was due to economic distress, to rise in the retail sale price of the drug, and to propaganda and picketing.

Cocaine.

420. The total number of licences issued to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine was 470 as compared with 482 in 1929-30. One hundred and eleven permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision. Seventy-six permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests for illicit sale or possession of cocaine was 388 against 425 in the previous year. One thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine ounces of cocaine were seized by Customs officers, 240 ounces by Excise officers and 8 ounces by Police officers. The total quantity seized in Bengal was 2,077 ounces as compared with 6,315 ounces in the previous year.

Excise offences.

421. The total number of persons prosecuted and convicted on charges under the excise and opium laws was 7,971 and 7,060 respectively against 6,315 and 5,718 in the previous year.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1930-31.]

Rate.

422. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where the Cess Act is not in force, road and public works cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and immovable properties. The valuation or gross rental on which cesses are based amounted to Rs. 15,98,71,387 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 3,01,63,519. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 18·8 per cent.

Demands and collections.

423. The total cess demand was Rs. 1,11,01,794. The current demand showed a net increase of Rs. 3,45,934 over that of the preceding year. The increase was mainly contributed by the districts of Khulna, Bakarganj, Noakhali and Bogra, and was due to the cess revaluation operations in those districts. There was, however, a noticeable decrease in the current cess demand of the districts of Burdwan and Midnapore. The percentage of total collections on current demand fell to 87·65 from 96·10 of the previous year. The outstanding balance increased by Rs. 10,89,661 over that of the previous year. The percentage of total collection on current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah and Murshidabad. The percentage varied from 63·41 to 97·35 in the remaining districts of the province.

Working of the certificate procedure.

424. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of arrears of cesses was 47,241 against 42,218 in the preceding year. Including 17,218 certificates pending from the previous year, the total number of certificates for disposal amounted to 64,459, of which 39,327 were disposed of and 25,132 were left pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and revaluation.

425. General revaluation operations on a large scale were in progress in the districts of Murshidabad, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Bogra. The revision of assessment of the coal mines in the districts of Burdwan and Birbhum and of certain gazari forests in Dacca and Mymensingh was made, as usual, under Chapter V of the Cess Act. Partial valuations and revaluations were also undertaken in the districts of Burdwan, Midnapore, Noakhali and Tippera.

CHAPTER XI.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

Public Health.

[Report of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1930.]

General health conditions.

426. During 1930 both the birth and death rates decreased as compared with 1929, the former by 9·2 per cent. and the latter by 4·7 per cent., showing a quinquennial decrease by 7·3 and 9·7 per cent. respectively. Both the birth and the death rate were the lowest on record since 1900. The rate of natural increase was 4·2 compared with 5·8 per mille in 1929. The birth rate in Bengal was lower than that of every other province in India except the North-Western Frontier Province, while the death rate was higher than the death rates of the North-Western Frontier Province, Assam and Burma only. Seven districts, Jessore, Calcutta, Nadia, Malda, Rajshahi, Pabna and Dinajpur showed excess of deaths over births. All these districts except Malda had showed this excess in the previous year as well. Jessore and Calcutta appear to have improved slightly. In others there are obvious signs of increased deterioration. The infant mortality rate, 187·3 per mille of births, was higher than the rates of the previous two years, viz., 179·9 and 178·1, and also a little higher than that of the quinquennial average of 184·0. The death rate from cholera, small-pox, fever, dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, injury and other causes is shown below in comparison with the figures for 1929.

	1929.	1930.
Cholera	1·7	1·2
Small-pox	0·4	0·2
Fever	15·3	15·1
Dysentery and diarrhœa	·8	·8
Respiratory diseases	1·1	1·2
Injury	0·4	0·4
Other causes	3·6	3·4

Registration and verification of vital statistics.

427. Of the 118 municipalities only 25 instituted proceedings in 179 instances for neglect to report births and deaths and in 122 cases only were convictions secured. In rural areas the new system of registration under which the presidents of union boards in a majority of registering circles have been entrusted with the

duties of registering births and deaths is still working unsatisfactorily, but is expected to improve. The worst offenders are station-masters who are responsible under executive orders to supply returns for the railway limits.

Epidemic diseases: Cholera.

428. Cholera claimed 54,963 deaths in 1930 against 81,090 in 1929, showing a reduction of 26,127 deaths or 29·4 per cent. in the death rate. This disease caused 5·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 7·4 per cent. in 1929. The death rate from cholera was lower in every month during the latter half of the year compared with the rate of the previous year and the preceding decennium. After its usual rise in October the death rate came down in February 1930 to rise again in March and April. It reached its minimum during the rainy season and again rose in November. Faridpur, Dacca and Howrah suffered most among the districts and Noakhali, Bansbaria and Kandi among the towns. The total number of inoculations performed was 1,021,541 against 1,566,150 in 1929. About 110,940 water-supplies were disinfected in addition to a large number of infected latrines, houses, ghats and dobas. The pilgrims to Ganga Sagar, Puri Rath-jatra, and the Kumbh mela were inoculated, as also the Haj pilgrims. Educative propaganda against cholera epidemic was carried on by lantern lectures and magic lantern demonstrations. Direct assistance was given by the departmental medical staff to local bodies, and leaflets and posters were widely distributed.

Small-pox.

429. Small-pox accounted for 11,268 deaths with a death rate of ·2 per mille compared with ·4 in the previous year and ·6 the mean of the previous five years, showing a reduction of 50 per cent. against the former and 66·7 per cent. against the latter. The outbreak this year was the aftermath of the last quinquennial epidemic which began towards the close of 1924, and Bengal will be fortunate if these cases do not form the preliminary to the apprehended pandemic in 1932. During 1930 there was slight decrease in the total number of vaccinations. Until the proportion of vaccination is raised from the present one-ninth to one-seventh of the total population, the province cannot be considered immune against small-pox epidemic. Besides a free supply of calf lymph, the Local Government as usual contributed Rs. 50,000 for free vaccination during the year. Small-pox caused 1·1 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 1·9 per cent. in the previous year. Starting in December 1929 the cases began to increase till the maximum was reached in April. The highest mortality rate, viz., 4·3 per 100,000, was obtained in April and the lowest, viz., 4·6, in October and November. Compared with the year 1929 and the average of the previous decade, the death rate was less in every month of the year 1930. Calcutta as usual was the worst sufferer.

Among the districts Bankura only showed a higher death rate from small-pox than in the previous year. The respective death rates in towns and rural areas were 1·01 and ·19 against ·32 and ·44 in 1929, showing an increase of 215·6 per cent. in towns and a decrease of 56·8 per cent. in the rural areas. Calcutta alone was responsible for 57·7 per cent. of the total deaths from small-pox. 3·9 per cent. of the total deaths from small-pox occurred among infants below one year of age and 10·4 per cent. among children between 1 and 10 years of age.

Fevers.

430. Fevers caused 705,066 deaths against 713,531 in 1929. Of the total deaths from all causes fevers claimed 67·5 per cent. against 65·2 per cent. last year. Death rates for malaria, kala-azar and measles remained on par, while those for enteric and relapsing fevers increased by 9·1 and 25·0 per cent. respectively and for other fevers were reduced by 2·7 per cent.

Malaria.

431. Malaria was responsible for 336,879 deaths with a death rate of 7·2 per mille in 1930 against 335,414 deaths and 7·2 death rate in 1929. The number of deaths thus increased by 1,465 though the rates remained the same. Malaria accounted for 47·8 per cent. of the fever deaths and for 32·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Fever indices compared with the previous year show an increase in 1930 in ten districts and a reduction in the rest excepting Tippera, where the figures remained unchanged. The towns registered 3,181 deaths from malaria with a death rate of 1·02 per mille and the rural areas 333,698 deaths with a rate of 7·7. Compared with the previous year, the death rate was reduced in the towns by 15·0 per cent. and the increase of 1·3 per cent. in the rural areas was insignificant. Forty-four towns out of 118 returned death rates above the provincial urban average for malaria (1·02). The most noticeable rates were registered in Dhulian (Murshidabad district) 19·4, Kotchandpur (Jessore district) 11·8, Chakdaha (Nadia) 11·7 and Birnagar (Nadia) 10·4. 7,468·3 lbs. of quinine were consumed in 1930 as compared with 8,994·9 lbs. in the previous year. Birbhum, Burdwan, Malda and Dacca, in which districts the fever indices had risen, showed increased consumption, while Faridpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Nadia, Bankura and Chittagong reduced their consumption. Experimental anti-malaria schemes were continued at Singaran-Toposi, Banka Valley and Sailihat in the Duars.

Kala-azar.

432. The provincial death rate from kala-azar was ·23 per mille, which was practically the same as in the previous year. Compared with 1929 the death rate in all towns was reduced by 10·3 per cent. and in Calcutta by 23·7. The highest mortality from kala-azar, viz., 3·1, was registered in Kalna (Burdwan district).

Fifty-two out of 118 towns did not record any deaths from this cause. Kala-azar accounted for 1·5 per cent. of fever deaths and for 1·04 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 1·5 and 0·9 per cent. respectively in the previous year. There were 110,017 new cases of kala-azar admitted for treatment at kala-azar centres and other medical institutions in the province against 114,845 in the previous year and 180,074 in 1927. The number of such admissions reached its maximum in 1925 (188,944) and has been gradually decreasing since then. This reduction was common to all districts except Murshidabad, Burdwan, Noakhali and Khulna, where the increased number of admissions was appreciable. Altogether 170 special kala-azar treatment centres worked in the various districts throughout the year and treated 38,204 cases. The Local Government contributed Rs. 88,000 towards the cost of this work.

Enteric fever, measles, relapsing and other fevers.

433. The death rate from enteric fever increased by 9·09 per cent. and that from measles by 20 per cent. in 1930 as compared with the previous year. As in the previous year these increases occurred in the rural areas in case of both the diseases. In the towns including Calcutta death rate from enteric fever decreased, while that of measles showed increase. 1·6 per cent. of fever deaths and 1·07 per cent. of the total provincial mortality were due to enteric fever and ·4 per cent. of the former and ·3 per cent. of the latter were due to measles. The deaths reported from relapsing fever were 4,767 against 3,955 in 1929. It is practically certain that deaths are reported as due to relapsing fever in error, since the condition is uncommon in Bengal. No death from this cause was reported to have occurred in Calcutta. Other fevers accounted for 338,399 deaths with a death rate of 7·3 per mille.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.

434. Dysentery caused 22,252 deaths and diarrhœa 17,115, making a total of 39,367 and giving a death rate of 0·84 per mille in 1930 against 37,156 deaths and a death rate of 0·80 in 1929. These two diseases were responsible for 3·77 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Since 1911 deaths from these two causes have been gradually on the increase. This is undoubtedly due to accurate reporting. Howrah and Calcutta as usual headed the list, while Malda was at the bottom. The highest increase occurred in the Noakhali district. The death rate in all towns was reduced in 1930 by 3·5 per cent. and in Calcutta by 1·6. In rural areas, however, it increased by 8·9 per cent. The highest death rate was returned by Ramjibanpur in the Midnapore district.

Respiratory diseases.

435. The respiratory diseases claimed 56,082 deaths in 1930, showing an increase of 5·3 per cent. over the previous year. Influenza, pneumonia, phthisis and other respiratory diseases all

showed an increase during the year. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 5·37 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. The total number of deaths from pneumonia in the province and the death rate from pneumonia increased by 2,293 and 10·0 per cent. respectively in 1930. In the case of phthisis the figures were 607 and 9 per cent. and in the case of influenza 168 and 16·6 per cent. Within the last 20 years the deaths reported from respiratory diseases have been steadily on the increase, until they are now over five times what they were. The increase has been most marked in the rural areas in respect of all the respiratory diseases in 1930. Influenza accounted for 3,171 deaths, phthisis 11,576, pneumonia 25,784 and other respiratory diseases 15,551. But these figures represent only a small fraction of the deaths which actually occur every year from these diseases.

Injuries.

436. The total number of deaths from injuries was 19,397 against 20,002, showing a reduction of 605 in 1930. Deaths from suicide increased by 65, those from rabies by 40, while there was a reduction of 665 and 45 respectively in deaths from wounds or accidents and from snake-bites. Injuries accounted for 1·9 per cent. of the total deaths in the province. One thousand six hundred and sixty-six of the deaths occurred in towns (Calcutta alone claimed 730) and 17,731 in rural areas. 158,113 deaths were reported from other causes, of which 21,552 were shown to have occurred in towns and 136,561 in the rural areas of the province.

General sanitation in the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong.

437. The city and the port of Calcutta being free from plague, no routine disinfection of clothing and bedding of Asiatic and African crews or of third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India was enforced. There were 480 admissions of European seamen and 8 deaths. The admission rate to hospitals of European seamen for all causes calculated on arrival was 22·19 per mille and the death rate ·36 against ·15 in 1929. Sixty-two European seamen suffering from venereal diseases were also admitted to the hospital. Three deaths were registered at the shipping office, one from heart failure, one from injury and the third from drowning, the death rate being ·13 per mille on arrivals. The total number of deaths reported by the police among the Asiatic floating population in the port was 168 (6 cholera, 2 small-pox, 4 bowel complaint, 41 accidental injuries, 49 drowning, one suicide and the remaining 65 from natural causes) giving a death rate of 9·11 per mille. One hundred and nineteen Asiatic seamen and boatmen were admitted to the various hospitals, of whom 14 died (9 from cholera and 5 from other causes). Five ships with infectious disease on board arrived in the port in 1930. No case of infectious disease was reported to have occurred on undecked Indian sea-going crafts.

438. There was no outbreak of cholera, small-pox or plague in any vessel lying in the port in 1930. The admission rate of European seamen to hospitals for all causes calculated on arrival figure was ·74 per mille. There was no death in the hospital. Many cases of beri-beri arrived in the port by sea from Burma and some proved fatal. Twenty-six Asiatic seamen were admitted into the Chittagong General Hospital, 2 suffering from dysentery, one from malaria, 5 from simple fever, 2 from influenza and 16 from other causes. There was no death.

Port of Chittagong.

439. During 1930, 3,306 chemical, 5,557 bacteriological, and 4,749 samples of food were examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. Although the Bengal Food Adulteration Act has been extended to all the municipalities and districts, only two of the District Boards, viz., Rangpur and Khulna, had opened laboratories by the end of the year 1930. Arrangements are being made to open similar laboratories at Rajshahi and Jessore. Two thousand and twenty-four samples of foodstuffs were received from 16 out of 18 district boards and 2,003 such samples were received from 45 out of 90 municipalities within the jurisdiction of this laboratory. Over 60 per cent. of the samples from district boards were found adulterated, whereas, in the case of the municipalities, the adulteration was 33·4 per cent. Special enquiries were conducted in connection with the applicability of Koser's Citrate Utilisation test in the sanitary analysis of Bengal waters. (It has been confirmed that the power to utilise citrate or inability to do so is a fairly constant characteristic of the organism of the B coli group.) Bedford's test was tried on a large number of samples of water, but the results obtained were not constant in all cases. The efficiency of the Katadyn sterilizator was tested by a series of experiments. Research was also carried out at the Jullundar tannery at Tollyganj to find out the best method of purification of effluents.

Public health laboratories : Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

440. One hundred and sixty samples of water were examined chemically and 428 bacteriologically in 1930. Two hundred and eighty samples of effluents from the Dacca sewage works and 1,888 samples of foodstuffs were examined during the year. Of the latter 990 samples were received from district boards and 898 from municipalities, out of which 66 per cent. and 43 per cent. respectively were found adulterated. One sample each of alum and bleaching received from the Dacca municipality and the Dacca Central Jail was also examined in this laboratory.

Dacca Branch Public Health Laboratory.

441. Seven thousand two hundred and sixty-three samples received from bonded laboratories, the Excise department and the police were examined at the Bengal Excise Laboratory in 1930

Bengal Excise Laboratory.

against 7,976 in the previous year. Of these samples 6,503 were of spirituous medical preparations, 5 of country spirit, 11 of pachwai, 7 of brandy, beer, gin, rum and medicated wines, 31 of water for ascertaining suitability for reduction purposes, 139 instruments for standardisation, 2 special samples for analytical purposes, 352 court cases samples (mostly liquor) and 313 distillery samples.

Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

442. Anti-cholera vaccine manufactured at the laboratory amounted to 1,865,220 cubic centimetres, of which 1,186,955 cubic centimetres were issued free and 29,870 cubic centimetres were supplied on payment.

Darjeeling Municipal Laboratory.

443. Fifty-five samples of water were examined chemically and 307 bacteriologically during the year. One hundred and five samples of sewage effluents and 435 samples of foodstuffs were also examined at the laboratory. 8·5 per cent. of the milk, 58·9 per cent. of the butter, 13·0 of the ghee and 5·8 of the mustard oil samples were found adulterated. Besides this work, 168 samples of urine, 103 of blood, 21 of pus, 93 of stools, 226 of swabs, 94 of sputum and one of vaccine or a total of 806 samples were examined clinically during the year.

School hygiene.

444. During the year 1930, 16,700 boys and 524 girls were medically examined in 159 schools by 26 medical officers. The plans of 76 educational institutions were examined and passed, and 66 books on hygiene were reviewed for the provincial text-book committee.

Dai training.

445. About 98 dai training classes were organised during the year and 1,113 dais were trained. A total of 605 certificates and 919 bags were distributed among the trained dais.

Educational propaganda and publicity.

446. The publicity bureau of the Bengal Public Health Department delivered 486 lectures with or without the aid of lantern slides. The extensive health propaganda carried out by the publicity staff stimulated the district boards of Rajshahi, Burdwan, Jalpaiguri, Bankura and Malda to organise their own propaganda departments under their respective District Health Officers. It is expected that, with a better financial outlook, all district boards and municipalities will give facilities to their health officers to enter for the British Empire Challenge Shield Competition. The increase from 78 in 1929 to 130 health welfare exhibitions in 1930 is a clear index of the popularity of the movement. A liberal supply of leaflets, charts and pictorial posters has always been given to the organisers of health exhibitions and, whenever possible, officers of the publicity staff have been deputed for lectures and demonstrations. More than 20,000 leaflets and

pamphlets were reprinted and 220,000 pamphlets on various preventible diseases were newly printed in Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and English. The total number distributed amounted to several lakhs. As in previous years the Bengal Public Health Department participated in fitting up a health-exhibition car for the Eastern Bengal Railway demonstration train. The car was very popular. The health welfare week committee again enlisted the aid of the publicity branch in organising their exhibition in the Indian Museum building. The stock of magic lantern slides was replenished and 60 sets of tinted slides were renewed. The department possesses 26 sets of films, comprising 32 reels, on various preventible diseases. A new interesting addition was an Italian film on malaria in five reels. In all 60 cinema shows were given during the year.

Fairs and festivals.

447. No case of infectious disease was reported from any fair held in the province during 1930 except from the Ganga Sagar mela held on the 13th, 14th and 15th of January 1931. This mela was attended by more than 50,000 pilgrims, 23,861 of whom arrived by steamer and the rest by boat and road. There were 6 attacks and 3 deaths from cholera on the mela ground, one of which was brought to the island from a steamer, while the remaining 5 cases occurred among the boat pilgrims. Three hundred and seventy-five inoculations against cholera were performed on the island. There was one case of chicken-pox but none of small-pox. An outdoor dispensary with observation sheds was opened at the mela and 567 patients were treated there.

Septic tank latrines.

448. The plans of 9 septic tank latrines and of two Aerobic plants were approved during 1930. One thousand six hundred and fifty-six samples of effluents were analysed at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory, 571 bacteriologically and 1,085 chemically. Leaving out of account the bacteriological samples collected from the Titagarh sewage works, 173 samples of 450, or 38 per cent., were found bacteriologically unsatisfactory and 52 per cent. sterile. The quality of the effluent collected from the Titagarh sewage works was found to be satisfactory chemically, but the bacteriological standard of purity has not yet been reached. Simplex activated sludge plant is being used, and a similar third unit had to be added to cope with the increased amount of sewage treated at the works. Mill managers were advised to carry on health propaganda work to inculcate simple rules of hygiene on the mill labour. In several mills cinema health films were exhibited, magic lantern lectures on sanitation arranged and suitable hygiene notices demonstrated in latrines and urinals. In about 100 cases the mill authorities were advised through the Chief Inspector of Factories to remove nuisances. In addition, the

respective authorities of the King George's Docks, Police hospital, Bengal-Nagpur Railway office, Gandalpara jute mill and the Ishapur rifle factory were advised direct.

Prevention of food adulteration.

449. No further addition was made to the number of notified articles of food shown in the previous year's report. All the district boards have since authorised the public health circle sanitary officers to exercise the powers and perform the functions specified in sections 10 and 12 of the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919.

Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.

450. Nineteen health officers and 98 sanitary inspectors were employed in the municipalities of the province excluding Calcutta, the sanctioned scale being 21 health officers and 100 sanitary inspectors. In addition to the sanctioned establishment the Howrah municipality, as in the previous year, maintained 3 assistant health officers to cope with the increased municipal sanitary work. No health officer was employed by the Chittagong municipality. The Rajpur municipality maintained no sanitary inspector. The Barisal municipality continued to evade employing a health officer and Santipur and Baraset maintaining sanitary inspectors. Of the three sanctioned sanitary inspectors, the Bhatpara municipality employed only two. The Gaibandha municipality continued to maintain a sanitary inspector although not yet required to do so under the Bengal Municipal Act. All the districts (Darjeeling excluded) were provided with fully qualified health officers. The rural public health organisation scheme has since been fully completed and 575 circles in the various districts excluding Darjeeling have been provided with trained sanitary inspectors and in a few cases with assistant health officers. These health circles are inspected by the Circle Assistant Directors of Public Health and their recommendations communicated by the Bengal Public Health Department to the district boards concerned for necessary action. With a view to enlist public support to the scheme, public health committees have been formed locally. These committees are intended, on the one hand, to operate for the decentralisation of public health work in matters of purely local interest and, on the other, to serve as a co-ordinating agency for the work of the union boards in measures extending over a larger area than that of a single union board. The duties of such committees are to give information to the sanitary inspector about health conditions of the area which the member represents, to hear reports of the work which the sanitary inspector has been doing and to learn from him in what matters their co-operation as a committee or as individuals would be salutary. The whole organisation has been doing very satisfactory work in connection with the control of epidemics and public health propaganda.

Vaccination.

451. A total of 2,246,798 primary vaccinations and 3,034,649 revaccinations, making an aggregate of 5,281,445 operations, were performed during 1930-31 on 5,280,889 persons against 2,304,461 primary vaccinations and 3,229,419 revaccinations or an aggregate of 5,533,880 operations on 5,529,138 persons in the previous year, showing a decrease of 252,435 vaccinations during the year under review. Of the primary operations 92·4 per cent. and of the revaccination 50·5 per cent. were successful. These included 270,401 children under one year and 1,426,795 between one and six years of age. The ratio of successful vaccinations per mille of population was 77·3 for the year. The vaccinations performed in rural areas numbered 4,631,888, 523,638 were done in municipal areas and 125,919 on tea gardens, factories, railways, steamers, dispensaries and jails against 4,997,443, 411,044 and 125,393 in the previous year, showing in the case of the rural areas a decrease of 365,555 and an increase of 112,594 and 526 respectively in the other two areas during the year 1930-31. The decrease in the number of operations is generally ascribable to the fact that small-pox was less prevalent during the year, but it is regrettable to note that in three districts, viz., Midnapore, 24-Parganas and Khulna, the number of vaccinations was reduced even though deaths from small-pox increased. Khulna received a special grant of Rs. 4,000 from the provincial revenue to carry on free vaccination during the year, yet there was a reduction by 44·1 per cent. in the total number of vaccinations performed in the district. On the other hand, the number of vaccinations was higher in the Asansol mining settlement area, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Pabna districts with a corresponding reduction in the small-pox incidence. Of the infant population in the province 253·1 per mille were successfully vaccinated against 280·4 in the previous year. In rural areas the proportion was 227·4 and in municipal areas 741·2 against 259·7 and 692·4 respectively in 1929-30. The total cost of vaccination amounted to Rs. 4,84,166-5-7 against Rs. 5,14,006-15-6 in the previous year. Rs. 1,10,088 (including the annual recurring grant Rs. 50,000) was contributed towards this expenditure from provincial funds. The average cost for each successful vaccination varied from 7 pies in Vishnupur (Bankura) to Rs. 2-14-9 in Jhalakati (Bakarganj) in urban areas. A total of 5,057,180 grains of anti-small-pox lymph was manufactured at the Bengal Vaccine Depot during the year and 3,842,348 grains were issued to the various local bodies. The average amount of pulp collected from each cow calf was 211·8 grains and from each buffalo calf 603·7 grains. A little over 200 packets were issued daily. The total proceeds of the sale of lymph

amounted to Rs. 8,177-10 against Rs. 11,318-11 in the previous year, and the total expenditure to Rs. 59,315-2-10 (including overhead charges for supervision, etc.) against Rs. 59,482-13 in 1929-30.

Sanitation.

[Bengal Sanitary Board's Report and the Report of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, for the year 1930.]

Bengal Sanitary Board.

452. The Bengal Sanitary Board consisted of six officials and nine non-official members during the year 1930. The Board held four ordinary meetings all in Calcutta. One sketch project and three detailed projects of water-supply were approved by the Board during the year and submitted to the Local Government. The Board approved the Serampur Water Works extension project but provisionally only, as they were of opinion that, before the scheme was proceeded with, the question whether the water-supply of the Howrah municipality could not be further extended fully to accommodate Serampur should be examined. The Board considered the report of the Dacca Maternity and Child Welfare Trust in 1929 and the note of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, on the flushing of riverbeds from the Damodar river on the left bank of the Damodar in the Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah districts during the monsoon of 1930. They expressed the opinion that the latter experiment was proceeding on satisfactory lines and that any expenditure incurred thereon was well worth while. The note of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, Bengal, on the treatment of night-soil by digestion tanks and aviation was also considered. The Board expressed their opinion that experiments on the lines of the Chief Engineer's note might be usefully made, regard being had to the relative quantity of gas in India and Europe and the comparative value of the digestion of activated sludge and disposal of dried sludge. The municipal inspection reports and the reports on the examination of the various water-supplies in Bengal were, as usual, discussed and necessary action was taken by the Board.

Sanitary Engineering.

453. Under the control and supervision of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, construction of twenty schemes was carried on during the year, including twelve water-supply schemes, one each at Dacca, Chandpur, Narayanganj, Bansbaria, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Rajshahi, English Bazar, Satkhira, Asansol, Midnapore and Midnapore Jail and four sewerage schemes, one each for the Dacca University, Kalimpong, Tittagarh and Bhatpara and also the sanitation scheme for the Government building

at Dacca, the Bhatpara improvement scheme and the Tangail sub-jail drainage scheme. Very little progress with the Dacca main drainage extension scheme was made during the year 1930. Five sketch projects of water-supply at Bagerhat, Katwa, Rangamati, Dinajpur and Salboni and four detailed projects of water-supplies at Jalpaiguri, Pabna, Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria were prepared during the year in addition to one sketch project of sewerage at Naihati and one detailed project at Tittagarh. Besides, three sketch projects of drainage at Khulna, Siliguri and Faridpur and one detailed project of drainage at Kotrung were prepared. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, drew up the plans and estimate of 13 water-supply schemes, including three estimates for tube-wells and one drainage scheme, in addition to the performance of several works of a miscellaneous nature at the request of the local authorities. The total capital expenditure on water works and sewerage works during the year was Rs. 5,77,537 and Rs. 3,19,005 respectively.

Medical Relief.

[Report on the Working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1930.]

Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

454. Forty-three hospitals and dispensaries including the Howrah General Hospital were working in Calcutta at the beginning of the year, to which number was added at the latter part of the year one new institution, viz., the Maniktola Municipal Maternity Home. The indoor hospitals, which numbered 23, provided accommodation for 3,387 beds as against 3,397 in the previous year. Number of institutions.

455. The total number of patients treated in the different institutions was 706,778, of whom 52,625 were in-patients and 654,153 out-patients, as compared with a total of 689,282, viz., 51,842 in and 637,440 out-patients, in the previous year. The total increase of indoor and outdoor patients was 17,496, which increase was mainly due to the growing popularity of the different institutions. The number of deaths among the in-patients was 5,662 against 5,753 in 1929, the death rate remaining practically at the level of the previous year, viz., about 11 per cent. Attendance and admission.

456. During the major portion of the preceding year, the nursing staff at the Medical College hospitals was low, but the situation was greatly improved at the close of the year and normal strength was regained during the early part of the year under report. The nursing staff at the Medical College hospitals had to Nursing.

bear increased pressure and strain, as compared with the previous year. It was creditable to the staff that they coped with the situation satisfactorily and ungrudgingly. There was a marked improvement in the nursing arrangements at the Presidency General Hospital and no difficulty was experienced in obtaining recruits. The nursing arrangements in other hospitals remained the same as in the previous year.

Finance.

457. The total income of the Calcutta hospitals under classes I, III and IV amounted to Rs. 32,81,064 as compared with Rs. 32,78,243 in the previous year. Of the total income Rs. 18,48,364, i.e., about 57 per cent., was contributed by Government and subscriptions and donations accounted for Rs. 2,10,315, i.e., about 6 per cent., only. Rs. 3,37,386 and Rs. 3,74,595 were respectively contributed by local funds and municipalities, which, compared with the previous year, showed an increase of Rs. 19,642 and Rs. 3,938 in their respective contributions. Of the miscellaneous receipts Rs. 3,39,639 was realised as fees from paying and other patients. The total cost of maintenance of the Calcutta hospitals, excluding investments, amounted to Rs. 31,55,181 as compared with Rs. 31,67,755 in 1929.

District Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of institutions.

458. There were 1,144 dispensaries in operation at the beginning of the year. During the year under review 31 new dispensaries were opened and 14 closed. The total number of dispensaries at the end of the year was thus 1,161. Besides these institutions several other temporary dispensaries were in operation and rendered medical aid at hats, melas, fairs and also in places affected by malaria and other epidemic diseases. Certain itinerant and subsidised dispensaries also were, as usual, in operation in the mufassal. Dispensaries following systems of medicine other than Allopathic comprised 68 Homeopathic, 19 Ayurvedic and 10 Unani as compared with 60, 14 and 7 respectively during the previous year.

Number of beds.

459. The total number of beds in the district hospitals rose from 5,675 to 5,706, of which 4,316 were for male patients and 1,390 for female patients.

Attendance.

460. The total number of patients indoor and outdoor treated in all classes of dispensaries stood at 8,481,660 as compared with 8,331,372 in 1929.

Nursing.

461. There were practically no arrangements for nursing in most of the mufassal Sadar hospitals and the nurses employed in some of the stations were inadequate. Untrained male nurses

were employed in some places, who undertook the work in the absence of patients' relatives. The present arrangements are undoubtedly unsatisfactory and are mostly due to lack of funds. Adequate nursing, though essential, is expensive and local support to the hospitals is, as a rule, very poor.

462. Malaria, as usual, accounted for the largest number of patients treated, viz., 2,271,740 against 2,227,502 in the previous year. The number of kala-azar patients treated fell from 64,066 to 55,053. This falling off was due to the fact that almost all the district boards opened several kala-azar centres in their respective districts. The number of patients treated in the following diseases showed the increases set out in the table below:— Disease.

	1929.	1930.
Dysentery	209,226	215,361
Influenza	93,780	119,780
Tuberculosis	10,937	11,410
Leprosy	2,815	2,867

The number of cases suffering from cholera, small-pox, beri-beri and venereal diseases showed decline.

463. The total income of classes I, III and IV dispensaries excluding opening balances amounted to Rs. 24,13,585 as compared with Rs. 25,27,076 in the previous year. The largest income as usual was derived from the local fund, viz., about 50 per cent. of the total receipts as compared with about 48 per cent. in 1929. Government contribution amounted to Rs. 3,44,396, or about 14 per cent., against Rs. 4,54,271, or about 18 per cent., in 1929. Municipal contributions were about 12 per cent., and public subscriptions and donations near about 13 per cent. of the total income as compared with approximately 11 per cent. and 13 per cent. respectively in the preceding year. The cost of the upkeep of the hospitals and dispensaries excluding investments amounted to Rs. 23,64,100 as compared with Rs. 23,78,188 in the preceding year. Finance.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1930.]

464. During the year the Sanitarium remained open from 15th March to 15th November and the hospital from 15th March to 31st December 1930. The number of admissions decreased from 428 to 354. The total number of patients treated in the hospital was 80, of whom 72 were cured, 6 relieved and 2 were discharged. Number of patients.

Finance.

465. The financial condition of the institution was far from satisfactory. In January 1931 the liabilities far exceeded the assets and the head clerk had absconded. The accounts were therefore audited by Government. The audit showed that the net liabilities of the institution exceeded assets by Rs. 33,343 and the total loss amounted to Rs. 25,056 approximately. It was also ascertained that a sum of at least Rs. 8,160 had been defalcated. In addition to the usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds a special grant of Rs. 29,140 was made by Government during the year 1930-31 to cover the outstanding liabilities of the institution as well as to meet the cost of the maintenance of four beds in the hospital.

The Poisons Act.

[Working of the Poisons Act during the year 1930-31.]

466. During the year 3,678 licences were current in the province, excluding Calcutta, as against 3,545 in the previous year, an increase of 133. In Calcutta 632 licences were renewed and 91 fresh licences were issued, making a total of 723 against 705 licences current in the preceding year, an increase of 18. There were 22 prosecutions under the Act, during the year, of which 6 were in Calcutta and the remainder in the mufassal. The large decrease in the number of prosecutions in Calcutta was due to the salutary effect of the prosecutions instituted last year. All the prosecutions in Calcutta ended in conviction, while out of 16 cases in the mufassal 13 ended in conviction. There were 10 cases of cattle poisoning, viz., 4 in 24-Parganas, 1 in Nadia, 3 in Khulna and 2 in Tippera. In the 24-Parganas 7 persons were concerned, of whom 4 were acquitted or discharged and 3 convicted. In Nadia the case was declared "mistake of fact." In Khulna final reports were submitted in two cases and one case ended in conviction.

Emigration.

Inland Emigration.

[Report on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, for the year ending 30th June 1931.]

467. There was a further falling off in the number of emigrants despatched to the labour districts during the year under review. The total number of emigrants recruited in Bengal was 132 as against 183 in the previous year. Of these 72 came from Birbhum and the rest from Midnapore. The total number of recruits from Bengal and other provinces embarking at Goalundo was 7,706,

including those recruited in the Bombay Presidency outside the Act, as compared with 10,804 in the preceding year. The number of garden sardars employed was 100, including 20 sardarnis, as against 263 in the previous year. All worked under the control of licensed local agents who were 12 in number. The rest houses for emigrants at Asansol, Kharagpur, Naihati and Goalundo maintained by the Tea Districts Labour Association were frequently inspected and their condition was found to be, in all respects, satisfactory. Of the 60,745 emigrants who halted at Naihati, 1,493 went to the Duars in the Jalpaiguri district, and the rest, with the exceptions mentioned below, went to Assam *via* Amingaon or Goalundo. One emigrant died of pneumonia at Naihati. Of the total number of emigrants who arrived from the different recruiting districts in and outside the Presidency of Bengal 11 deserted, viz., 2 from Kharagpur, 8 from Naihati, and one from Goalundo, while one, who was unwilling to proceed, was discharged at Kharagpur. There were ten desertions during the journey from Goalundo. In connection with the transport of labour to Assam both the receipts and expenditure during the year under review decreased as compared with the previous year, viz., receipts from Rs. 809-15 to Rs. 650 and expenditure from Rs. 9,085-6 to Rs. 8,886-8.

Foreign Emigration.

[Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, and the rules framed thereunder, for the year ending 31st December 1930.]

Foreign emigration.

468. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas during the year under review.

Repatriates to India.

469. During the year a total number of 1,767 repatriates, including one born on the voyage, embarked from the colonies of Fiji, British Guiana, Jamaica, Natal and Surinam for return to India. Of this number 45 died on the voyage and 1,722 disembarked. Of the 45 deaths, 44 occurred on the SS. "Sutlej," which brought repatriates from British Guiana, Jamaica and Surinam. Of these 37 occurred among repatriates from British Guiana and 7 among those from Jamaica. This abnormal death rate is mainly attributed to the poor condition of the repatriates at the time they left the colonies. Some were invalids, others old and debilitated or of poor constitution and wanting in stamina, and therefore unable to withstand the vicissitudes of climate during the voyage. Among the repatriates there was one leper who came from Fiji, as against 43 (34 from Trinidad and 9 from Fiji) last year.

CHAPTER XII.—EDUCATION.

General System of Public Instruction.

Educational institutions.

470. During the year under review the number of recognised institutions increased by 555 with an increase of 17,375 pupils on their rolls. The number of unrecognised institutions rose from 1,521 to 1,633 and of the pupils reading in them from 54,754 to 62,096.

The total expenditure and expenditure on public instruction amounted to about Rs. 4,39 lakhs against Rs. 4,44 lakhs in the preceding year. The following comparative statement shows that there was a decrease from the previous year under every source except municipal funds: this decrease evidently reflects the financial condition of the province:—

Year.	Provincial revenues.	District Boards.	Municipal Funds.	Fees.	Other private sources.
	Lakhs.				
1929-30 ..	154·89	17·77	11·72	188·06	71·53
1930-31 ..	154·03	16·25	14·07	184·60	70·34

University and collegiate education.

471. Professor W. S. Urquhart, M.A., D.LITT., was on the 7th August 1930 succeeded as Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University by Lt.-Col. (now Sir) Hassan Suhrawardy, O.B.E., M.D. At Dacca Professor G. H. Langley, M.A., I.E.S., continued to be Vice-Chancellor of the University. One of the most important events in the University of Dacca was the completion of the new buildings for the Salimullah Muslim Hall. In the Calcutta University the number of University students fell from 1,483 in 1929-30 to 1,087 in 1930-31 while in Dacca University also the number fell from 826 to 748.

There was no change in the number of colleges. Economic distress and political unrest were responsible, however, for a fall in the number of students from 20,871 to 18,189 and this decrease is reflected in the cost of maintenance which fell from Rs. 37,52,295 to Rs. 36,87,942.

Of the 44 colleges for men, 10 were wholly maintained by Government, and the rest were managed by private bodies, though many received subsidies from Government which amounted to

Rs. 2,68,224. The recurring allotment of Rs. 1,29,000 which is usually distributed on the recommendation of the University of Calcutta for the improvement of libraries, laboratories and gymnasia had to be withheld during this year owing to financial stringency.

Secondary education.

472. The condition of secondary education continued to be unsatisfactory. The abnormal conditions of the year brought about by the acute economic distress of the people and the civil disobedience movement swept aside what little improvements were effected in recent years in bettering the condition of teachers by the institution of provident funds and by the adoption of increased rates of fees. Weak schools under private management became still weaker. Salaries were in arrears in a large number of schools and many essential items of expenditure had been cut down as the income from subscriptions, donations, etc., almost ceased. Even in old self-supporting schools underpayment to teachers and similar measures were resorted to in order to save the institutions from financial collapse. Much now depends on the early improvement of the material condition of the people, the availability of further Government grants for aiding secondary schools and a cessation of political activity of a disturbing and unsettling nature. The value of the grant-in-aid system in maintaining a standard of efficiency in schools participating in it and as a suitable encouragement to private efforts cannot be overestimated.

There was a fall in the number of pupils in secondary schools by 24,473 during the year though the number of schools showed an increase by 35. The average annual cost of educating a pupil in a secondary school was Rs. 33-8 and of maintaining a school Rs. 4,895-9. Thirty-five high and middle English schools in the Presidency had arrangements for giving manual instruction to their pupils and 7 Government high schools had science course classes attached to them. The new secondary school curriculum applicable to the whole of the province came into force on the 1st January 1931. Its immediate effect has been the increased use of vernacular as a medium of instruction and uniformity of gradation in respect of all classes of schools. A special feature of the curriculum is the introduction of science teaching in classes below IX.

Primary education.

473. The number of primary schools for Indian boys rose from 42,363 to 42,712. These schools were attended by 1,636,272 pupils (including 85,383 girls) on 31st March 1931 as compared with 1,590,839 pupils (including 73,006 girls) on the corresponding date of the previous year. In addition, the primary classes of secondary schools had 183,263 pupils, against 210,434 in 1929-30. Of the total Hindu male population 6·7 per cent. and of the total

Muhammadan male population 7·0 per cent. were in boys' primary schools at the close of the year. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 66,55,890; of which Rs. 34,76,143 or 52·2 per cent. came from public funds and Rs. 31,79,747 or 47·8 per cent. from private sources. The expenditure from public funds was made up of Rs. 21,54,172 from Provincial Revenues, Rs. 6,93,167 from District Board funds and Rs. 6,28,804 from municipal funds. During the year the number of Panchayati Union schools rose by 35. A sum of Rs. 1,35,844 was sanctioned for the maintenance of these schools. No new primary school under Mr. Biss' scheme was established duirng the year. At the close of the year the number of primary schools for boys in Calcutta was 465, of which 142 were free schools. These free schools are maintained by the Calcutta Corporation. The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Bill, which had been before the Bengal Legislative Council since 1928, was passed into an Act on the 26th August 1930.

Training of male teachers.

474. The two training colleges for secondary school teachers maintained by Government at Calcutta and Dacca had altogether 137 students on their rolls on 31st March 1931, as compared with 134 pupils on the corresponding date of the previous year. The bulk of the students admitted to both colleges were teachers of aided schools and young men anxious to take up teaching as a profession. The vacation course in English instituted by the Dacca University in 1929 was conducted by Dr. West, Principal, Teachers' Training College, Dacca, for about five weeks shortly after the close of the period under review; out of 17 candidates trained in this course 15 were awarded proficiency certificates. A medical examination of the students of the David Hare Training College held early in the session showed that only 16 of them were in good health, the chief defects noticed being bad teeth and flat chests. Investigations in the new method of teaching English Grammar and Bengali were continued in the Teachers' Training College at Dacca.

The two State scholarships available for the training of graduate teachers of secondary schools in Bengal were, as usual, awarded during the year, one to a Moslem and the other to a non-Moslem teacher in order that they might undergo a two-year course of training in Great Britain.

First grade training or normal schools.

475. On the 31st March 1931 there were 5 normal or first grade training schools in Bengal which were attended by 438 pupils, as compared with 431 students on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total expenditure incurred in the upkeep of these schools rose from Rs. 1,26,275 to Rs. 1,26,316, of which Rs. 1,26,168 was contributed by Provincial Revenues. The schools

passed 159 students out of 193 who sat for the final examination. The Hooghly Training School continued to impart instruction in First Aid and Ambulance Work and 44 students of the school were awarded proficiency certificates last year.

Guru and muallim training schools.

476. The guru and muallim training schools which numbered 87 reported a total enrolment of 2,134 pupils. Of these schools 80 were managed by Government and one by the Corporation of Calcutta while the rest were maintained by Missionary Societies. One old type guru training school was replaced by a larger school of improved type and another old type school was abolished. Of the 1,830 candidates, who appeared in the final examination from these schools 1,627 were successful.

Training of women teachers.

477. The scheme for the establishment of a Women's Training College at Calcutta under departmental control has been administratively approved by Government and is awaiting provision of funds. At present women teachers of secondary schools are trained at the training departments attached to the Diocesan College and the Loreto House, Calcutta.

The number of training schools and classes having facilities for training women teachers employed in primary schools and the lower classes of secondary schools, remained unchanged at 10, viz., 3 directly managed by Government and the rest under the management of Christian and Brahmo missions as in the previous year. There were 240 pupils in these as against 220 in the previous year.

Professional and technical education : Bengal Engineering College.

478. On the 31st March 1931, the Bengal Engineering College had the same number of pupils on its roll as on the corresponding date of the previous year. Twenty and 45 students passed the B.E. and I.E. examinations respectively. Fourteen obtained diploma in Mechanical and Technical Engineering, 13 Diplomas in Electrical Engineering and 6 passed the examination for Associateship in Mechanical Engineering during the year. The annual cost per pupil amounted to Rs. 1,293 of which Rs. 1,068 was borne by Government.

Ahsanulla School of Engineering.

479. On the 31st March 1931, the Ahsanulla School of Engineering, Dacca, had a total enrolment of 476 pupils against 470 in the preceding year. The school passed 63 in the Overseer and 89 in the Sub-overseer examinations. The annual cost of educating each pupil in the institution amounted to Rs. 237 of which Rs. 166 was borne by Government.

Commercial schools : Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

480. There were altogether 28 commercial schools in the province. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, had 315 students on its roll on the 31st March 1931 against 355 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The Institute passed

26 students in the Final Commercial Course examination. In the Special Commercial Course examination 182 students passed. The Final Commercial Course examination of the Institute has been recognised by the Calcutta University as equivalent to the I.A. examination for purposes of the admission of students to the B.A. and B. Com. classes. The upkeep of the institution cost Rs. 74,972 during the year, of which Rs. 50,931 was met from Provincial Revenues. The cost per pupil amounted to Rs. 189 of which Rs. 128 was borne by Government.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

481. The Government School of Art, Calcutta, had 216 students on the 31st March 1931 as compared with 285 students in the corresponding date of 1930. This decrease in the number of pupils was due to the expulsion and withdrawal of some students in consequence of disturbances in the school. Revised rules for the management of the Government School of Art were administratively approved by Government during the year under report. The total expenditure incurred for maintaining the school during the year amounted to Rs. 52,363 of which Rs. 37,907 was met from Provincial Revenues. The cost per pupil was Rs. 214 of which Rs. 155 was borne by Government.

Other schools of art.

482. There were 4 other schools of art in the Presidency, viz., Indian Art School, Calcutta, Indian Society of Oriental Art, Calcutta, Maheswarpasa Art School, Khulna, and the Albert Temple of Science, Calcutta, the first three of which received grants from Government. These schools had altogether 242 pupils on their rolls on the 31st March 1931 and their upkeep cost during the year under report Rs. 35,665, of which Rs. 15,280 were paid from Provincial Revenues.

Education of Indian girls and women.

483. The number of reorganised schools of all grades and types for Indian girls increased during the year under review from 17,129 to 17,481 and the number of pupils attending them from 435,463 to 446,288. The number of arts colleges for women in the Presidency was, as previously, four. The number of pupils attending them decreased from 375 in the previous year to 342. Forty-three candidates appeared at the B.A. examination, of which 36 were successful, 99 candidates appeared at the I.A. and I.Sc. examinations, of whom 78 were successful. The number of high schools for Indian girls rose during the year under review from 33 to 34. The number of girls reading in high schools also increased from 9,492 to 9,846. At the Matriculation examination of 1931, 454 candidates appeared of whom 332 passed against 223 in the previous year. Classes in music continued to be held at the Bethune College under the auspicies of the Sangit Sangha. Private agencies such as the Society for the Improvement of backward Classes, the Nari Siksha Samiti and missionary societies continued to do good

work in spreading female education. The standard of needlework in girls' schools continued to improve under the guidance of trained mistresses. In the Diocesan College, lectures outside the curriculum were delivered, as previously, on such subjects as home nursing, prevention of tuberculosis, the Simon Report and English Literature.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

484. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians was 68 as in the previous year. Of these 64 were schools for general education and 4 for special instruction. The 64 general schools comprised 24 secondary schools, 19 higher grade, 20 primary and 1 ungraded. Government directly controlled 3 institutions, viz., the Victoria Boys' School, the Dow Hill Girls' School and the Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, while the remaining were under the management of bodies such as the Railway authorities and the various Christian denominations.

The total number of pupils (boys and girls) in European schools was 11,623 compared with 11,447 in the previous year. The number of boys reading in European schools increased by 126 and that of girls by 50. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian students amounted to Rs. 39,90,887 as compared with Rs. 40,50,171 in the previous year.

A sum of Rs. 29,139 was expended on scholarships during the year under review as compared with Rs. 30,579 in the previous year.

The Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, is the only institution in the province for training European and Anglo-Indian female teachers. There being no similar institution in the province for men three European male teachers were deputed by Government during the year under review to the Chelmsford Training College, Ghoragali, Punjab, for training as elementary school teachers.

Special classes continued to be held for the training of girl probationers in sick nursing in the school hospital at Loreto Convent, Entally, and St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, Kalimpong. Selected girls were also given training as children's nurses in the latter school. The Children's House, Kurseong, continued to provide training for the education of the physically and mentally defective European children.

Muhammadan education.

485. The number of Muhammadan pupils enrolled in all types of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,344,945 to 1,391,462. The proportion of Moslem pupils to the total number of students under instruction was 51·5 per cent.; but in Arts and Professional Colleges the Muhammadans formed only 13·7 and 17·9, respectively, of the total number of pupils at those stages. In the high and middle stages of instruction, the proportion of

Moslems was 18·1 and 24·6 per cent. respectively. In the primary stage, however, the proportion was 53·8 per cent. and in other special schools it was 72·2 per cent. of the total number of students enrolled. During the year under review, the number of Islamic Intermediate Colleges remained unchanged at 3, 2 of which were maintained and 1 aided by Government. The total number of pupils reading in these colleges was 162. Of the 80 students who appeared at the Islamic Intermediate examination held in March 1931, 51 were successful. At the close of the year, there were 743 madrasahs in the province with 69,824 pupils on their rolls. Of the total number of madrasahs, 686 were of the reformed type the rest being of the old type. Four hundred and thirty-three candidates sat for the High Madrasah examination, of whom 233 or 55·1 per cent. passed. In the Junior Madrasah examination 1,653 students passed out of 2,724 candidates who sat for the examination. Nine hundred and sixty-one students appeared at the Central Madrasah examination conducted by the Calcutta Madrasah and of these 535 were successful. The number of maktabs or primary schools for Moslems was 24,733. The total number of pupils reading in these institutions was 806,075, of whom 578,617 were boys and 227,458 girls. The number of Moslem girls reading in various grades of recognised institutions was 281,572 against 267,924 in the previous year; of these 5 were in Arts and Professional Colleges, 60 were in the high stage, 164 were in the middle stage, 280,856 were in the primary stage, and 487 read in special schools.

During the latter part of the year a committee known as the Muslim Education Advisory Committee was appointed to advise Government with regard to the policy to be pursued for the advancement of Muslim education in the province. The results of its deliberations are awaited with great interest.

Education of the sons of chiefs and nobles.

486. In Bengal there is no school specially set apart for the education of the sons of chiefs and nobles. There are however special arrangements in the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad for the education of boys of the Nizamat family. The number of Nizamat boys under instruction was 26 during the year under review. These boys live in a separate hostel, the upkeep of which cost Government Rs. 6,053 during the year.

Education of the children of—
(a) Backward classes.

487. The number of boys and girls belonging to backward communities under instruction in the various types of schools and colleges in Bengal on 31st March 1931, was 433,686 of whom 62,434 were girls. The corresponding figure on the same date of 1930 was 418,769 of whom 55,923 were girls. This increase in the numbers of boys and girls in spite of prevailing economic distress indicates that more interest is being evinced in female education by the members of backward communities. The question of providing an

increased number of free-studentships for the children of backward classes is under the consideration of Government. Scholarships are reserved for the children of educationally backward classes.

(b) Education of criminal classes.

488. The Salvation Army maintains an institution at Nilphamari in the district of Rangpur, for the education of the children of the Karwal Nuts—a criminal tribe. In this school the children are taught farming, gardening and weaving as well as ordinary subjects of the primary curriculum. The school had on its rolls 35 boys and 34 girls on the 31st March 1931. The Reformatory and Industrial Schools at Alipore had 249 students on 31st March 1931 against 235 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The upkeep of these institutions cost Government Rs. 47,190, the corresponding amount for the previous year being Rs. 39,898. During the year under review, special curricula of studies based on the curricula of studies for ordinary schools were sanctioned for the primary and post primary classes of the schools. The Borstal Institution at Bankura had an enrolment of 373 on 31st March 1931 and cost Rs. 54,016 from Provincial Revenues.

(c) Education of defectives.

489. Twenty-four European children suffering from mental or physical defects were under training in the Children's House, Kurseong, on 31st March 1931 as against 20 of the previous year. There were 5 deaf and dumb schools in this province during the year under review, one in Calcutta, 3 in the Dacca Division and one in the Chittagong Division.

(d) Education of factory and colliery children.

490. There were 40 primary schools in Bengal for the education of factory and colliery children, 7 in the Burdwan district, 27 in the Hooghly district and 6 in the 24-Parganas. Of the 6 schools in the 24-Parganas, two were managed by the authorities of the Rifle and Metal and Steel Factories at Ichapur and one by the Mill authorities at Titagarh. Besides these there were 2 middle English and 2 upper primary schools at Titagarh and Kankinarah which were mostly attended by the children of mill employees. There is a Telegu class attached to the Titagarh school for the children of Madrassi labourers. Government contributed liberally towards the cost of all these schools.

(e) Education of children employees in Tea gardens.

491. There were altogether 165 tea-garden schools in the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling with 2,703 pupils on their rolls. In the Darjeeling district most of the schools are managed by mission authorities. Government contribution was Rs. 8,167 against a total expenditure of Rs. 22,940 for the maintenance of these schools.

CHAPTER XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Bengal for 1921-22, Part II, pages 298-300.]

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library and the working of Act XXV of 1867.

492. The total number of publications registered during the year 1930-31 was 5,324, of which 3,903 were books and 1,421 were periodicals. Of the former 3,758 were original publications against 3,132 in 1929 and 145 republications and translations against 184. The number of educational books rose from 1,166 in the previous year to 1,756, while the number of non-educational books fell from 2,241 to 2,147.

The press.

493. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, English and vernacular, printed or published in the Presidency during the year under review was 663 against 742 of the previous year. Of this number 253 were newspapers and 394 periodicals. Of the total number of publications 165 were in English, 339 in Bengali and the remainder in other languages. One hundred and seven newspapers and periodicals were started and 266 ceased to exist during the year.

Proscriptions and prosecutions.

494. During the year under review the number of prosecutions instituted was 15 against 21 in the preceding year. All resulted in conviction, except two which were withdrawn, one on the tendering of an apology and the other because the accused had been detained under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance. Proceedings under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, were instituted successfully in two cases. There were 51 proscriptions under section 99A, Criminal Procedure Code, of which 16 were of books, 3 of pamphlets and the rest of leaflets.

General tone of the press.

495. The most notable feature of the year was the wholehearted support given to the civil disobedience movement by the Indian press. The promulgation of the Indian Press Ordinance (Ordinance No. II of 1930) had a salutary effect and operated as an effective check on the spread of anti-Government propaganda, but the country had already been thoroughly infected with the virus of sedition and hatred by the time the Ordinance came into force. The Ordinance was withdrawn on March 6, in terms of the Irwin-Gandhi pact, so that for the remainder of the year abuse of Government was unbridled. Thus the Ordinance was introduced

too late and withdrawn too soon. Little interest was taken in foreign politics, though the position of Indians in South and East Africa furnished a convenient stick to beat the British Government with when other materials failed.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

496. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal from October 1930 to September 1931, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 15 Chaplains of the Church of England, 13 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Society, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, the most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., and 4 Clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hedjaz Pilgrims.

497. During the year 1931 the port of Calcutta was declared permanently open to the pilgrim traffic to the Hedjaz and one ship with 372 pilgrims sailed from the port in the month of March 1931. The unexpectedly small number of pilgrims is attributed partly to the bad economic conditions and partly to the activities of the Arab *muallims*, who have not been affected by the operation of Bengal Act II of 1929. The Government of India have been addressed on the subject of the introduction of legislation to bring this class of guide under the same form of control as Indian *muallims* and the matter is now under their consideration. The recommendations of the Haj Inquiry Committee are still under the consideration of Government of India.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1930.]

Analytical cases.

498. During the year under review 14,366 articles were examined in the department as against 8,851 articles in the previous year, an increase of 5,515 articles. The number of analyses of excisable drugs carried out was 6,922 against 2,044 in 1929, 1,867 in 1928 and 1,045 in 1927. In the General Analytical department 8,755 examinations were made against 3,618 in the previous year, an increase of 5,137 articles. This increase was mainly due to the large number of samples of cocaine and of exhibits in connection with explosives cases received for examination during the year.

Medico-legal cases.

499. During the year 2,269 medico-legal cases were referred to the department against 2,251 in 1929. The total number of medico-legal articles examined was 5,611 against 5,233 in 1929. Seven hundred and seventy-six human viscera were examined against 789 in 1929 and 123 human tissues against 157 in 1929. The number of animal poisoning cases received for analysis was 71 against 144 in 1929.

Stain cases.

500. The total number of stain cases received for examination was 3,098 against 2,867 in 1929. The table below gives the number of cases as well as the number of articles in stain cases for the last five years :—

	Cases.	Articles.
1926	896	2,231
1927	921	2,361
1928	975	2,667
1929	1,059	2,867
1930	1,083	3,098

It is seen that the number of stain cases is steadily increasing.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Reports of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1930-31.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

501. At the beginning of the session 167 students were on the rolls in the 3 classes. One hundred and forty-one prolonged their studies throughout the session against 163 of last year. Eighty-one were admitted into class A as freshmen. Fifty students were from Bengal against 56 last year. The rest included students from Assam, the United Provinces, Madras, Iraq, Penang, Ceylon, Port Blair and elsewhere. During the year the Government of Bihar and Orissa withdrew all their students in consequence of the opening of a veterinary college of their own. The results of the annual examinations were satisfactory. Two courses of the Sanitary Inspectors' training class were held during the year and lectures and demonstrations on infectious diseases of animals were given. As usual the students went through a course of equitation at the riding classes. Six students were awarded prizes. The number of outsiders attending the riding classes was 25.

College hospital.

502. During the year 3,201 patients were treated and 238 operations performed against 3,766 and 282 respectively in the previous year.

Civil Veterinary Department.

503. During the year there was a marked fall in the mortality of animals from contagious diseases, the total number of deaths being 13,009 against 15,933 in the preceding year. Rinderpest alone accounted for 72 per cent. of the total mortality, its toll being 9,345 animals against 10,183 in the preceding year. The number of deaths from hæmorrhagic septicæmia was 2,035 against 3,590 in the preceding year. There were 583 deaths from foot-and-mouth disease against 581 in the previous year. During the year 89,088 animals were inoculated in 455 outbreaks against 142,761 in 704 outbreaks in the preceding year. The death roll among inoculated animals was only 0·5 per cent. of the total. Four hundred and seventeen animals were inoculated against rinderpest by the serum simultaneous method. During the year the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in the mufassal treated 136,957 cases against 129,406 in the preceding year, while the number of cases treated at hospitals and dispensaries rose from 63,118 to 76,722.

Dispensaries.

504. During the year the number of dispensaries rose from 46 to 48, new dispensaries being opened at Dimla in the Rangpur district and Sodepur Pinjrapole. The District Board of Bogra purchased a plot of land with a corrugated tin shed for the construction of a dispensary at Jaipurhat. Construction of the dog ward attached to the veterinary hospital at Chinsura was completed.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1930-31.]

505. Owing to general economic depression the number of visitors fell to 979,604, a decrease of 130,297 as compared with the previous year. The gate money receipts fell from Rs. 75,609 to Rs. 66,083. The total receipts fell from Rs. 1,26,519 in 1929-30 to Rs. 1,23,290 and the expenditure from Rs. 1,17,954 to Rs. 1,14,300. Rigid economy was practised in all departments. The financial condition of the garden is on the whole satisfactory. The garden sustained a serious loss by the death from arsenic poisoning of the male Indian rhinoceros, the perpetrator of which wanton outrage could not be detected. It is most difficult to obtain a specimen for mating with the surviving female. As usual interesting additions to the collection of animals and birds were made. Noticeable among these were the new species of birds of prey and valuable Himalayan birds.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

506. During the year 1930-31 the Bengal Board of Censors held 22 meetings and certified 655 films. Seven hundred and one films were examined by the Board's Inspectors. Certificates were refused for 7 films and 44 films were passed after objectionable portions had been excised.

Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

[Report of the Electrical Adviser, Bengal, for the year 1930.]

507. During 1930 two new licences were granted under section 3 (*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, viz., (1) the Lillooah Electric Licence, 1930, granted to the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, and (2) the Narayanganj Electric Licence, 1930, granted to the Chittagong Engineering and Electric Supply Company, Limited. The Narayanganj Electric Licence, 1926, originally granted to Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarty and subsequently transferred to the Narayanganj Electric Supply Company, was revoked. Applications for licences for Serajganj, Comilla, Jalpaiguri, Asansol, Khulna and Rishra-Konnagar-Kotrung were under consideration, and those for Rajshahi, Baidyabati-Champdani and Kalimpong were either refused or allowed to lapse by the applicants. Applications from the Darjeeling Municipality for the extension of the area of supply of their present licence and from Messrs. Killick Nixon and Company, Limited, and Messrs. Octavius Steel and Company, Limited in 1929 for the hydro-electric development of North-Bengal were also under consideration. With a view to overcome certain practical difficulties in granting licences, Government published during the year a resolution advising intending applicants inter alia to approach Government in the first instance with satisfactory evidence of financial stability or prospects before incurring the expense of preparing a draft licence and publishing it or preparing a detailed scheme. At the close of the year several such preliminary applications for licences had been received. The Rangpur Electric Licence, 1928, commenced supply during the year under report. The compulsory works of the Bhatpara Riverside Electric (Distribution) Licence, 1929, were nearing completion. The work on the tunnel under the river Hooghly between their southern station and the Botanical Gardens, commenced by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, in December 1929, was nearing completion at the close of the year. Little progress was made by the licensees of the Pabna, Berhampore and Kurseong electric licences. The management of

the Mymensingh Electric Licence continued to be unsatisfactory. Sanction under section 28 (*1*) of the Act for the supply of electricity by non-licensees was granted to (1) the Associated Power Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to certain collieries and (2) the House of Laborers, Limited, for the Assam Bengal Railway station at Comilla. The sanctions held by the Dishergarh Power Supply Company, Limited, in respect of two separate sets of collieries expired during the year and were renewed. There were 74 accidents, 9 fatal and 65 non-fatal, against 58, 12 fatal, in 1929. When breaches of the Indian Electricity Act and the Rules were discovered, legal action was taken.

Auxiliary Force and Indian Territorial Force.

508. There are in the province twelve units of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces which consist of all branches of the service. The forces are reported to possess a high state of efficiency and to have an excellent esprit-de-corps. Each unit has its annual camp for periods varying from 4 days to 14 days where sports and musketry competitions are well supported. There is no lack of volunteers from all walks of life. It is not possible at present to expand the Auxiliary Forces for financial and other reasons.

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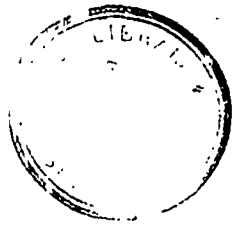

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